FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 JULY 1984

Gulf Conflict

Plane Shot Down — Iraqi air defenses shot down an Iranian fighter plane east of Basra, according to a military communique broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio. Tehran radio reported only that enemy "aerial aggression was foiled" by antiaircraft fire and Iranian Air Force planes.

Diplomatic Developments — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is to preside over a meeting of the ICO Good Offices Committee beginning in Jidda on 17 July, KUNA reported. The meeting is to discuss ways of stopping the Iran-Iraq war. Responding to the new ICO mediation effort, a Majlis official said in an interview with the Iranian daily *ETTELA'AT* that the committee cannot take a single step toward peace in the war and has failed to win Iran's confidence, IRNA noted. A Foreign Ministry statement also expressed "skepticism" on the outcome of the meeting, IRNA added.

In another development, alluding to the invitation of Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to visit Saudi Arabia, an editorial in the Iranian paper *JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI*, cited by Tehran radio, stated that it is an attempt by Saudi Arabia to understand Iran's position and to "readjust" to the "realities" of the region.

Concerning another initiative, an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by IRNA denied reports that Iran's deputy foreign minister had traveled to Saudi Arabia and Qatar. The Kuwaiti paper *AL-WATAN* had reported that the Iranian official visited Riyadh and Doha in order to improve relations between Iran and the GCC, and invited a GCC delegation to Tehran. Meanwhile, the Iranian charge d'affaires in Kuwait said that Kuwaiti press reports on his meeting with Kuwait's foreign minister were "badly distorted" and aimed at creating an unhealthy atmosphere concerning Iran.

Lebanon

An Israeli soldier was killed when an RPG hit an IDF position in Tyre, Jerusalem radio announced. IDF soldiers killed a Lebanese civilian in the same area when they fired at two "suspicious" cars, according to the radio. In Beirut, the security situation was disturbed by violent clashes across combat lines in the southern suburbs, Beirut radio reported. Voice of Lebanon radio noted that the fighting was the first security disruption since the implementation of the security plan throughout the capital.

Israel

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, in a magazine interview reported by the GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE, said there is "no truth to the published report about discussions with the Syrians." Shamir was responding to a question about rumors of secret contacts between Israel and Syria concerning a mutual withdrawal from Lebanon.

PLO Affairs

At a news conference before departing Jordan, PLO Executive Committee Chairman 'Arafat announced that an agreement was reached with Jordanian officials on "unified action and a joint policy" to confront Israeli policies and actions, and "joint steps" on the arab and international levels, Amman radio reported. 'Arafat also said that Egyptian-PLO relations are "good" and that contacts between the two have not stopped. He added that he will visit Cairo as soon as circumstances allow, and that he is not requesting Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to "tear up" the Camp David accords, only to distance himself from them. According to a KUNA report on the news conference, 'Arafat denied that a Fatah delegation will visit Damascus to "correct" relations with the Syrian leadership, although he did describe the recent talks between Syrian leaders and Fatah's Faruq Qaddumi as "successful." He refused to confirm a reported meeting between himself and Syrian Vice President Rif'at al-Asad in Geneva last week, although he disclosed that his relations with the vice president have not been "severed."

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak told his new cabinet to concentrate on boosting economic production, adding that ministers should act seriously and decisively, avoid ostentation, issue precise statements, and confront laxity and indiscipline, MENA reported citing an official statement on the cabinet's first meeting. While stressing the need to develop the public sector of the economy, Mubarak denied 'absolutely untrue" rumors of further nationalizations and stressed that the public and private sectors are "twins." He also emphasized that officials should discontinue practicing "favoritism" through ties of kinship and patronage and he condemned the overstaffing of ministries by advisers "whose services have ended."

Arab Parliamentary Meeting

The participants at the Arab parliamentary speakers' meeting in Damascus reviewed the current situation in the Arab and international arenas, according to a final statement reported by Damascus television. The delegates representing parliaments from 14 Arab countries called on the Egyptian people to foil the Egyptian-Israeli agreement and the Camp David accords, and pointed out that the Fes summit resolutions represent the minimum acceptable level of guarantees for Arab rights in Palestine. In addition, the delegates voiced their concern over the attacks on oil tankers in the Gulf area, particularly the attacks on Saudi and Kuwaiti tankers, the statement added.

FBIS

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Budapest TV Interviews PLO Chairman 'Arafat

LD130917 Budapest Television Service in Hungarian 1925 GMT 12 Jul 84

[From the "Panorama" program; interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Alajos Chrudinak; in Tunis; date not given — recorded; no video available]

[Text] [Chrudinak] For more than a year I tried in vain to interview 'Arafat, because we were the first in the world to interview the leaders who had rebelled against him. Finally 'Arafat received us at his headquarters in Tunis.

[Chrudinak in Arabic with Hungarian translation superimposed] Now that it has been almost 1 and 1/2 years since rebellion and secession broke out in the ranks of the Fatah organization and disputes came to the surface within the PLO, do you see any positive signs of settling the Palestinians' internal dispute?

['Arafat, in Arabic with Hungarian translation superimposed] I am surprised that a journalist like you can fall into this trap, that you also are talking about rebellion and secession within Fatah and the PLO. I said right from the start that these events were attempts at interference by Arabs which some Arab countries use with the aim of forcing their will upon us. They even used weapons to bring the PLO under their domination.

[Chrudinak] Who are you talking about? Syria, perhaps?

['Arafat] I do not want to mention names right now, but what happened was beyond doubt an Arab intervention. Events later on proved this. For instance, what have the secessionists achieved? How much political weight do they carry? And to where did they disappear?

[Chrudinak] But I was referring to the internal dispute, according to which certain Palestinian leaders say that after the defeat in Beirut you came to the conclusion that in the future there is no point in confronting Israeli and U.S. aggression. And this is why you are now trying to come to an agreement with the United States. Al-Fahum and Hawatimah both say this.

['Arafat] Look, you are also part of those attempts to distort the realities, thus being kind to these Arab countries because I think you know as well as I do how hostile the United States is towards me. There it is, there. Come here Abu (Kiras). Yes, bring it here. You know they passed a law in the U.S. Congress against terrorism. They accuse us of this. The Americans are circulating a brochure at the moment, at the United Nations, for example. Have you seen this brochure?

[Chrudinak] No.

['Arafat] In the middle of the page, can you see, that's my photo. Around the photo in a radial pattern are listed 26 states. Here are the 26 states. The brochure says that the PLO interferes with the internal affairs of these 26 states in opposition to U.S. policy.

[Chrudinak] So they want to say here you oppose U.S. policies and are hindering them.

['Arafat] That I am hindering U.S. policy in the countries mentioned in the brochure. So these facts, this evidence, makes your statements groundless. It is those Palestinian brothers of mine who make these statements, who, when they realized these Arab countries were planning to attack us, weighed the situation and thought it better to gain these countries' good will.

[Chrudinak] But it still seems to me as if...

['Arafat, interrupting] I think that after all this I managed to convince you.

[Chrudinak] Message understood.

['Arafat] Look, I do not need to list even more proof for you. This is evidence from life.

[Chrudinak] What I mean by disagreements is that certain Palestinian leaders, such as, for example, George Habash, Nayif Hawatimah, and even some of your men in the Fatah Central Committee,were opposed and are opposed to certain political actions of yours — for example, your visit to Egypt.

['Arafat] This has nothing to do with the battles in Beirut. The situation is, there is debate within the PLO about whether we should take a step toward Egypt or not.

[Chrudinak] The Palestine parliament made a decision about this which is now being interpreted in different ways.

['Arafat, interrupting] No.

[Chrudinak] Yes, because the decision of the Palestine parliament states relations with Cairo cannot be restored until it renounces [the Camp David Accords], and rapprochement with Cairo has to take place at the same rate as Cairo distances itself from Camp David.

['Arafat] No, no, no. The amended decision is here in my hands. The decision states the PLO must overcome this crisis. My understanding of the Palestine parliament decision is we must make efforts in the interest of bridge building, because President Mubarak is not As-Sadat. According to the amended decision, Faruq Qaddumi should take the necessary steps, in agreement with me. Look, here is the authorization. I established contact with our Egyptian brothers on the basis of this authorization at the most diverse levels.

[Chrudinak] All right, but your Fatah organization came to an agreement with four Palestinian organizations opposed to it. If I am not mistaken, it was Fatah that made the concessions. Now, what about the Aden compromise, if I may call it that?

['Arafat] You can call it what you like because that is not what matters. What matters is the agreement.

[Chrudinak] I feel this compromise between Fatah and the other four organizations may bring about the settling of the internal strife. However, it is even more important that your foreign minister, Faruq Qaddumi, has left for Damascus.

['Arafat] Yes, because he had been invited he went to Damascus.

[Chrudinak] Yes, but as far as I know, President al-Asad first sent a message to you, through mediators, asking you to approve Qaddumi's visit there.

['Arafat] Where did you get that information?

[Chrudinak] Well, I am a journalist and journalists are inquisitive people.

['Arafat] There is nothing I can say about this because Qaddumi is still holding talks in Damascus.

[Chrudinak] As far as Syria is concerned, it seems that there is now a chance to settle your relations. But what is the situation concerning the Fatah wing that rebelled against you which is, on the other hand, opposed to the Aden agreement? When I last interviewed them, they told me...

['Arafat, interrupting] With whom?

[Chrudinak] With the rebels.

['Arafat] What? Are you still talking about the secessionists?

[Chrudinak] What I want to say is...

['Arafat, interrupting] And I am telling you to forget it. This is now a thing of the past.

[Chrudinak] So, could the rebels, by any chance, halt the implementation of the Aden agreement?

['Arafat] Let me tell you something. You must understand this. I do not even give them the respect of talking to them. Do you understand? I call them trained bloodhounds. I do not even give them the respect of talking about them. My people simply dropped them because they had betrayed us. So please do not embarrass me by talking about them in my presence. I do not give them this respect.

[Chrudinak] What is your long-term program, strategy? Do you have a strategy at all?

['Arafat] Of course. First of all, we must improve our relations with our Syrian brothers, then we must bring Egypt back to the Arab world by getting rid of the Camp David policy. We have already achieved notable successes in this. I think that you yourself know that there has been a change in the Egyptian policy.

[Chrudinak] But Egypt can hardly get rid of the Camp David policy!

['Arafat] No, no, not 100 percent. But let us be realists. Let us not demand the impossible. If we demand impossible things we get nowhere.

[Chrudinak] But it would have been more useful and to the point if, during the last 2 years, Syria, the PLO, the two wings of Fatah, and you had arrived in some way at an agreement. The Soviets are doing everything for this.

['Arafat] The Soviets have really tried every possibility, but who is it that has rejected all this? I or the Syrians? Ask the Soviet comrades.

[Chrudinak] Well, and the Syrian visit....

['Arafat] I am an optimist. I find Qaddumi's Damascus trip successful.

[Chrudinak] If Qaddumi's current Damascus trip is truly successful, is it possible to imagine that you also will return to Damascus, where you were expelled last year?

['Arafat] Why not? In 1976 a crisis developed between us, but later I returned to Damascus in spite of this.

[Chrudinak] That means that there are no obstacles for this?

['Arafat] There are no impossibilities in politics....

[Chrudinak, interrupting] Before or after convening your parliament?

['Arafat] Politics are dynamic. There are no permanent enemies or permanent friends in politics.

Yasir 'Arafat on PLO's Call-up Abilities

JN180828 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has announced that the PLO is capable of calling up 50,000-60,000 reserve fighters within a period of 48-72 hours. He pointed out that this mobilization process is faster than the Zionist enemy's call-up of its reservists, on which it basically depends.

He explained that the reservists are dealt with in accordance with the PLO's circumstances, financial capabilities, and the struggle and confrontation tasks.

Palestinian Sources on Relations With Syria

PM171515 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 14-20 Jul 84 P 3

[From "*AL-MAJALLAH* Correspondents' Dispatches"]

[Text] Informed Palestinian sources have revealed to *AL-MAJALLAH* the results of the Syrian-Palestinian meeting held between President Hafiz al-Asad and [PLO Political Department Chief] Faruq Qaddumi — Abu al-Lutf. The sources say that a meeting between President al-Asad and Yasir 'Arafat is still unlikely at present, but Abu al-Luft's visit has resulted in the reopening of Fatah's office in Damascus, the payment of sums allocated for the families of Palestinian martyrs in Syria, and the payment of allocations earmarked for Fatah fighters in Syria.

Al-Wazir on Future Palestinian Meetings

JN171730 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has said that the Palestinian groups have begun consultations and contacts in order to pave the way for forthcoming meetings. In press statements in Algiers, Abu Jihad added that the Palestinian groups who signed the national agreement will meet in Algiers before 28 July 1984 in order to lay the groundwork for larger meetings and to pave the way for holding the PNC. He explained that the groups participating in the Palestinian dialogue will set a date for the comprehensive dialogue meeting called for by the recent agreement in order to reach formulas for the comprehensive agreement and to set a date for holding the PNC.

PLO Official on Arab, Palestinian Differences

GF171203 Doha QNA in Arabic 0950 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Ash-Shariqah, 17 Jul (QNA) — Jamal as-Surani, PLO Central Committee member, has warned against the gravity of the impact of the continuation of Arab differences on the Palestinian issue and on the Arab presence as a whole. He said: The time is ripe to reconsider what has happened in the past, to benefit from it, and to fully realize that the Zionist threat is not only a menace to the Palestinian people and the Palestinian territories, but puts in jeopardy the existence and future of practically all Arab peoples.

In a statement which was published in today's issue of the UAE newspaper *AL-KHALIJ*, he called for the return of Egypt to the Arab ranks, to halting the Iraqi-Iranian war, and to normalizing relations between Syria and the PLO, between Syria on one hand and Jordan and Iraq on the other, and between Sudan and Libya in order to set in motion the necessary Arab plans to confront the ambitions of the Zionist enemy in the Arab homeland.

He stressed that the next stage will not tolerate factions or diversification with regard to the Palestinian people. He expressed the hope that the upcoming PNC session will yield a unified Palestinian leadership in the military, financial, and media fields, indicating that this will spearhead national action on military and political levels.

PLO Official Says Eban's Conditions 'Negotiable'

NC171710 (Clandestine) Palestinian Voice of National Unity in Arabic 1555 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Some informed sources in the occupied homeland recently disclosed the conditions dictated by Zionist Abba Eban in order to address an invitation to 'Arafat to visit occupied Jerusalem. The most important of these conditions are the following: that 'Arafat abolish the PLO Charter, that he change the PLO's uncivilized name — to use Abba Eban's words — that he (?disarm) the fighters — and this is what 'Arafat recently carried out — that the methods of violence and armed struggle be abandoned, and that the Zionist entity be recognized. Mauhmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, member of 'Arafat's Central Committee, described these conditions as not impossible and that common denominators can be reached.

Meanwhile, Khalid al-Hasan [Fatah Central Committee member] has stated that these conditions are negotiable.

Voice of PLO Criticizes Attacks on Agreement

JN171957 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1628 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] We have already said that the Aden agreement — when the Palestinian groups' leaders meet and when the PNC is held, in order to complete the agreement — will mark the end of one stage and the beginning of another in the life of the Palestinian revolution. We stipulated this practical completion of the Aden agreement because we were aware that some of the factors that previously hampered reaching a Palestinian agreement were still in existence and because we noticed that these factors' growing activities would negatively affect the renovated Palestinian march. It is no secret that we mean here the influence of the Syrian factor and the activities of some Palestinian parties that are subservient to it.

Here, we would like to point out the hostile statements about brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] which an increasing number of Syrian officials are currently making. This is in addition to the attack that certain Palestinian parties belonging to Syria are waging agaisnt the Aden agreement and its signatories. It is well understood that the statements that are hostile to Abu 'Ammar are not directed against him personally; they are directed against him because he is the symbol of unity and the symbol of the Palestinian people's divine rights to choose their leader. We had hoped that this trend would end — particularly since there have been numerous objective reasons emphasizing that the Palestinian people would neither relinquish these rights nor bargain on their clear vision, because Abu 'Ammar is the only one who deserves to be leader. We had also hoped that understanding these objective reasons would be the motive behind breaking the ice in recent Palestinian-Syrian relations. Consequently, we had hoped and are still hoping that there will be a general, principled agreement on the fact that the past is over.

The statements some Syrian figures have made against Abu 'Ammar are contrary not only to our aspirations, but also to actual developments and to what these developments have proven. The attacks against the Aden agreement and its signatories made by some Palestinian parties that are subservient to Syria come within this course. This agreement is the result of all the conflicts that appeared in the Palestinian arena because of external influence and its internal repercussions. The difficulty in reaching this result was actually not theoretical, but the result of suffering which proved that what we agreed on was the correct path for overcoming the obstacles obstructing the Palestinian march.

The attack against the Aden agreement and its signatories is actually an attack against the general Palestinian desire to overcome past frustrations. The attack after this agreement was signed is considered an assault on the Palestinian people's will, which was realized at the meeting of the Palestinian revolution's major groups. We had hoped that those parties and figures that were expressing the negative aspects of the past would disapper in light of the historical developments, or would at least veil their passive faces.

We do not want to make a final judgment either on these statements or on the attack against the Aden agreement. It is still possible that this storm is a prelude for better enlightenment and more positive behavior. However, we must be aware that continuing the march that led to the Aden agreement is subject to its signatories' ability to look into all of the negative aspects and trends of the past and to consider them as a part of the past that is both necessary and possible to challenge.

ICO Committee Holds Preliminary Meeting

LD180955 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0920 GMT 18 Jul 84

[Text] Jidda, 18 Jul (SPA) — The Islamic Good Offices Committee held a preliminary meeting this morning in Jidda and elected the president of Gambia, Dawda Jawara, as successor to the late president of Guinea, Ahmed Sekou Toure, as chairman. The meeting was attended by the president of Pakistan, Mohammad Ziaul Haq; the president of Bangladesh, Mohammad Ershad; the president of Gambia, Dawda Jawara; the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, Yasir 'Arafat; the foreign minister of Turkey, Vahit Halefoglu; the foreign minister of Guinea, Facine Toure; the foreign minister of Malaysia, Tunku Rithaudeen; and ICO General Secretary Habib Chatti. The committee's agenda was also approved.

Kuwait Asks Postponement of Mediation Session

LD171356 Kuwait KUNA in English 1247 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Tunis, July 17 (KUNA) — Kuwait officially asked Tuesday a two-day postponement of the August 28 meeting by the seven-man ministerial committee seeking an end to the Iran-Iraq war. Kuwaiti ambassador to Tunisia and its permanent representative at the Arab League Mizran al-Hamad conveyed the Kuwaiti request to the league's secretary general, Chedli Klibi. The Kuwaiti Embassy here also sent an official memorandum to this effect to the league.

The committee which groups the foreign ministers of Iraq, Syria, Kuwait, Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, and a representative of the PLO was originally scheduled to meet here on August 28th.

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC To Hold Joint Military Maneuvers in October

GF180512 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 18 Jul 84 p 16

[Text] GCC member states to hold joint military manoeuveres in Saudi Arabia in October.

BAHRAIN

Amir Cables Iraq's Saddam Husayn

GF180453 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 18 Jul 84 p 2

[Excerpt] H.H. the Amir, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, yesterday sent a cable of good wishes to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to mark the 16th anniversary of the 17 July Revolution.

KUWAIT

Acting Cabinet Affairs Minister on Soviet Relations

GF170145 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 16 Jul 84 p 1

[Excerpt] Kuwait's acting minister of state for cabinet affairs yesterday denied that Kuwait has aligning itself with the Soviet Union.

Jasim Khalid al-Marzuq, speaking after a Cabinet meeting said that while he welcomed the proposed visit of Soviet Foreign Minister, Andrey Gromyko to Kuwait, it was the result of a long-standing invitation from the deputy premier, foreign and information minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad.

The visit did not mean Kuwait was aligning itself with the Soviet Union, or taking sides with an international bloc, it merely reflected "Kuwait's good ties with all countries based on common interest," he said.

Speaking after a Cabinet meeting, Al-Marzuq referred to Kuwait's arms policy, which he said was to "buy weapons from all sources without discrimination" to meet Kuwait's needs in terms of both quantity and quality.

Al-'Adsani Meets With Syrian Leaders

LD172042 Kuwait KUNA in English 1523 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Damsscus, July 17 (KUNA) — Speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly Mohammad Yusuf al-'Adsani held a one-hour meeting Tuesday with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, it was reported. In the one hour meeting, attended by Speaker of the Syrian Parliament Mahmud az-Zu'bi, the two sides discussed the situation in the Gulf and Kuwaiti-Syrian relations.

Earlier, heads of delegations participating in meetings of the Inter-Arab Parliamentary Union met with Khaddam, Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm and Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar'. Al-'Adsani said the parliamentarians and Syrian officials discussed the situation on the Palestinian arena and developments of the Iraq-Iran war.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Kuwaiti delegation said a resolution was passed by the union condemning Iran's attacks on Kuwaiti and Saudi oil tankers, and threats to expand the war zone.

He added that issues to be presented in next September's Inter-Parliamentary Union meetings, will also be ratified.

Among those issues to be presented in the Geneva meetings are the Israeli aggressions on Arab countries, Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and developments of the Palestinian problem.

AL-WATAN Welcomes New Arab-Iranian Dialogue

GF171506 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 16 Jul 84 p 1

[Editorial: "A Window of Dialogue in the War Wall"]

[Excerpts] The continuous years of the war on the Iraqi-Iranian borders have proved the impossibility of the military solution and the victory of one party over the other. However, the recent dramatic development of strikes on oil tankers in the Gulf has presented the region and all its countries and peoples with a historical dilemma represented by the international threats to interfere in the region.

Iran, which has rejected all peaceful initiatives, is directly responsible for its own dilemma and it alone can make the key decision to extricate itself from the war which has exhausted its human and material energies. The current Iranian initiative which began with the visit of the Iranian Foreign Ministry under secretary to Riyadh and Qatar and the invitation extended to Hashemi-Rafsanjani to visit Saudi Arabia will open a new window of dialogue on the ways of ending the war and achieving peace.

From here, we hope the Arab-Iranian dialogue will guide the relations among the Gulf countries and will lead to the implementation of the international principles which call for settling any conflict through peaceful negotiations and which reject interference in the domestic affairs of any country. We also hope that this dialogue will establish a base for political and economic cooperation among the Gulf countries for the purpose of protecting the region against the foreign threats, consolidating its sovereignty and independence, and maintaining the interests of the region's peoples in construction and progress.

Tehran Moves Toward GCC

GF171557 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 16 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] *AL-WATAN* has learned that the visit of Saudi Deputy Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz ath-Thunayyan to the country the day before yesterday aimed at briefing officials in Kuwait on the results of the meeting held between Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal and Iranian Foreign Ministry Under Secretary

(Luvisian), who had visited Riyadh and Doha. Ath-Thunayyan also visited some of the GCC countries' capitals for the same purpose.

AL-WATAN has also learned that Iranian policy is currently aimed at improving relations between Iran and the GCC countries. The Qatari foreign minister and current chairman of the GCC Ministerial Council received a message from the Iranian envoy proposing a visit by a GCC delegation to Tehran. However, GCC discussions on this matter concluded that Iran must adopt proposals other than those demanding an end to GCC aid to Iraq, accusing Iraq of starting the war, and demanding compensations for Iran.

AL-WATAN has learned that the GCC countries favor meeting with the Iranians on the condition its venue will be someplace other than Tehran.

Defense Minister's Visit to USSR Viewed

LD180918 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0744 GMT 18 Jul 84

[Text] Kuwait, 18 July (KUNA) — The weekly *AT-TALI'AH* writes in its issue today that the most important result of Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Salim as-Sabah's visit to the Soviet Union is that it is an expression of Kuwait's policy of establishing balanced relations with all countries and of continuing to strengthen relations with the Soviet Union and the socialist countries on the bases of mutual benefit and respect. It also expresses Kuwait's rejection of U.S. pressure and blackmail.

In its commentary on the visit, the journal continues: Western, particularly U.S., information media, as expected, dealt with the news and the aims of the visit "with deliberate distortion which falls under the category of pressure and provocation."

It goes on to say that these information media disregarded the foreign policy course of both countries which coincides on important points in the sphere of international relations, the most prominent of which are mutual respect, noninterference in internal affairs and concern for stabilizing and developing relations among countries and peoples in the service of international peace and security.

AT-TALI'AH stressed that Shaykh Salim's visit to the Soviet Union is considered "a natural link in Kuwait's balanced foreign policy and a continuation of the course of strengthening relations with all countries of the world, especially those that adopt a supporting posture for our causes and respect the issue of the free and independent development of our country."

SAUDI ARABIA

King Fahd Receives Turkish Defense Minister

TA171630 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1600 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] National Defense Minister Zeki Yavuzturk, on an official visit in Saudi Arabia, was received by Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. Bilateral relations and the developments in the Gulf region were discussed during the meeting. Technical talks between the Turkish and Saudi delegations have also been concluded. Possibilities for joint Turkish-Saudi investments in the defense industry and cooperation in the field of military training were discussed in the meetings. Yavuzturk will return to Turkey tomorrow. A Turkish-Saudi joint communique will be issued before Yavuzturk leaves Jidda.

King Fahd Receives Sudanese Ministers

LD171502 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz today received the Sudanese delegation led by Minister of Culture and Information 'Ali Muhammad Shammu, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Hashim 'Uthman, who handed His Majesty a written message from His Excellency the Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs, and Sudanese Ambassador to the Kingdom 'Isa Mustafa Salamah.

Saudi-Maltese Joint Communique Reported

LD171422 Riyadh SPA in English 1230 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Jidda, July 17, (SPA) — Saudi Arabia and Malta have reaffirmed that no solution to the Middle East issue could be achieved without a just and final solution of the Palestinian people's issue, who are represented by the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and the full recovery of their legitimate rights including the right to self-determination and an independent state on their own soil as well as Israel's withdrawal from all Arab and Palestinian occupied lands including the Arab Jerusalem.

A joint communique issued at the end of a three-day official visit of Maltese Foreign Minister Dr Alex Sceberras Trigona to Saudi Arabia at the invitation of his Saudi counterpart Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, said the two sides had expressed their satisfaction with developing bilateral relations.

It said Trigona had talks with Prince Sa'ud on the situation in the Middle East and the Gulf and Mediterranean sea.

Referring to bilateral relations, they expressed their satisfaction over the development of ties between the two countries.

For his part, Trigona expressed his country's thanks to the Saudi Government for loans which it had extended to Malta for the development of some infrastructures in the island.

Referring to the Iran-Iraq war, the two ministers reasserted the need to find a negotiated settlement of the war in a way which could preserve the right and dignity of the two parties.

The communique said Trigona had briefed Prince Sa'ud on details of the upcoming foreign ministers conference of non-aligned member states of the Mediterranean region, which is due to take place in Malta in September to discuss the region's peace and security.

For his part, Prince Sa'ud expressed his country's support for the conference's cause, it added. Trigona also held talks with acting Finance and National Economy Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir and acting Information Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, it said.

Maltese Foreign Minister Departs

LD172129 Riyadh SPA in English 1947 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Jidda, July 17, SPA — Maltese Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Alex Sceberras Trigona left here tonight after a three-day official visit to Saudi Arabia during which he had talks with his Saudi counterpart Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal on bilateral relations and matters of common interest.

He was seen off by Salim Sunbul, chief of protocol at the Saudi Foreign Ministry.

Reportage of Arrivals for Good Offices Meetings

'Arafat Arrives in Jidda

LD171608 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Excerpt] The chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, Mr Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Jidda this afternoon to attend the meetings of the Islamic Good Offices Committee, which will begin tomorrow.

Pakistani President Arrives

LD172036 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1645 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Jidda, 17 Jul (SPA) — The president of Pakistan, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, and the delegation accompanying him arrived this evening in Jidda to attend meetings of the Islamic Good Offices Committee due to open tomorrow, Wednesday. He was welcomed on arrival by His Royal Highness Sa'ud ibn 'Abd al-Muhsin, deputy amir of Mecca region, Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, the ambassador of Pakistan to the Kingdom, and a number of senior officials.

Turkey's Foreign Minister Arrives

LD171618 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Excerpt] Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Vahit Halefoglu arrived in Jidda today at noon to attend the meetings of the Islamic Good Offices Committee, which will begin tomorrow.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Arrives

LD171441 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0928 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Jidda 17 Jul (SPA) — Malaysian Foreign Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen arrived in Jidda this morning to represent his country in meetings of the Islamic Good Offices Committee, which will resume tomorrow. A number of officials were at his arrival reception.

Bangladesh Official Arrives

LD172121 Riyadh SPA in English 1948 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Jidda, July 17, SPA — Bangladesh President Mohammad Hussain Ershad arrived here tonight to attend a meeting tomorrow of the Peace Committee of the Islamic Conference Organisation (ICO) which is seeking an end to the Iran-Iraq war.

He was greeted by Prince Saud ibn 'Abd al-Muhsin, deputy governor of Mecca region and ICO Secretary General Habib Chatti.

Weekly Session of Council of Ministers Reported

LD171404 Riyadh SPA in English 1200 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Jidda, July 17, SPA — The Saudi Council of Ministers held its regular weekly session here last night under the chairmanship of HM King Fahd.

After the session, acting Information Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, said the Council, after reviewing the most prominent political events at Arab and Islamic levels, was briefed on the efforts of HM King Fahd to put an end to fighting in the Gulf and to find means to end the Iran-Iraq war.

The Council also discussed the moves of the Islamic goodwill mission, which will meet here tomorrow at heads of state level, in the framework of its efforts to stop bloodshed between the two Muslim states, Mas'ud added.

The king had also stressed the need to make efforts at all international levels to reach an end to this vicious massacre, Mas'ud said.

Later the monarch briefed the Council on the outcome of his talks with Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasir 'Arafat last Sunday and the reconciliation agreement which had been reached by the organisation's different factions in Algiers recently in order to iron out differences and to unify the Palestinian brethren ranks to boost the steadfastness of Arab citizens in the occupied land despite the Zionist fierce attempts to Judaize Islamic Shrines, Mas'ud said.

After that the Council was briefed by Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani on the results of the last meeting of OPEC in Geneva. The results have confirmed the Kingdom's keenness to stabilize prices and production ceiling levels in order to achieve stability for the benefit of producers and consumers alike, Mas'ud said.

UAE

Heir Apparent on Arms, Relations With USSR

GF171423 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 17 Jul (WAM) — In a statement to the newspaper *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*, to be published tomorrow, Wednesday, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the UAE Armed Forces, called on Arab countries to quickly move to resolve their differences. He urged them to prepare the climate to hold the next Arab summit in Saudi Arabia so that they will be able to adopt decisive decisions vis-a-vis the threats menacing the Arab nation.

On supplying the UAE with modern arms, Shaykh Khalifah said the UAE will receive from France the arms for which it contracted on schedule, that is to say 1986, including the Mirage 2000 warplanes. His highness said that during his visit to Britain, he will discuss with the British defense secretary military affairs and supplying the UAE with modern arms in the framework of strengthening the state's defense capabilities and diversifying arms.

In reply to a question on whether there is an inclination in the UAE to establish relations with Moscow in the wake of reports about establishing a kind of contacts or relations between the USSR and the Gulf countries to create a sort of balance, Shaykh Khalifah said: The belief that balance in the region comes by inviting the Soviet Union to help us is not necessarily right. He affirmed that actual balance will come only from inside the Arab nation and through actual solidarity among Arab states and that reliance on any of the superpowers cannot realize what is desired.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah called for understanding the fact that the United States will not act on behalf of the Arabs or bring them their rights and that the Soviet Union will not fight on behalf of the Arabs or even fight among their ranks. He asserted the need for self-reliance and said: Balance can only be established through solidarity and unity and rights do not come to us but we should rather wrest them through strong will.

On establishing diplomatic relations between the UAE and the Soviet Union, his highness said: If the political leadership in the UAE sees this appropriate, it will not hesitate for one moment to adopt the right decision at the right time.

President Receives Message From Numayri

GF170924 Doha QNA in Arabic 0840 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 17 Jul (QNA) — The UAE president, His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, has received a written message from Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri pertaining to bilateral relations and current developments.

YAR

Premier Receives Saudi Defense Minister Message

GF172027 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, chairman of the Council of Ministers and member of the Standing Committee, has received a message from his brother Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, general inspector, and chairman of the Saudi side in the YAR-Saudi joint coordination council. The message was conveyed by the Saudi ambassador in San'a' during his meeting with the brother prime minister this afternoon.

New Cabinet Sworn in Before Mubarak 17 Jul

NC171145 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Members of the new cabinet took the constitutional oath this afternoon before President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at the Presidential Palace in Al-Qubbah. Those who took the oath were Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, the deputy prime ministers, and the ministers.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended by Ra'uf As'ad, the presidential secretary general; and Brigadier General Ra'uf Hilmi, the acting aide-de-camp.

Afterward the new cabinet held its first meeting under the chairmanship of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Mubarak,'Ali Address Cabinet

NC171705 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA) — The new cabinet held its first session at 1330 today at Al-Qubbah Palace under the chairmanship of President Husni Mubarak after the prime minister, the two deputy prime ministers, and ministers took the constitutional oath.

The cabinet session lasted approximately 1 and 3/4 hours. Minister of State for Information Safwat ash-Sharif stated after the session that President Mubarak congratulated the new cabinet and wished it success in performing its tasks. He said the cabinet's task is difficult at this stage. Safwat ash-Sharif said President Mubarak stressed during the session that ministerial work has become a task and a responsibility. President Mubarak said that he and the people expect the cabinet to achieve a great deal based on what has already been achieved.

Safwat ash-Sharif added President Mubarak stressed the former cabinet fulfilled its role and the new cabinet should be an extension of it [idafah] and continue the march. His excellency said: I am eager to bolster this cabinet with new and young people. I am eager the change should take place at the appropriate time. Some ministers have been changed, and this means I have confidence they are capable of being productive in their new positions.

The president welcomed the new ministers who have joined the cabinet for the first time and also thanked the ministers who worked in the former cabinet. The president said the aim of setting up new ministries is to fulfill the public interest, to give production an impetus, and to solve existing problems which need initiatives, efforts, and plans.

Safwat Ash-Sharif said President Mubarak stressed the following principles must govern action: seriousness, decisiveness, and the avoidance of ostentation; that statements should be precise; that laxity and indiscipline should be confronted; that every worker in every sector should feel there is a capable political leadership; and that every worker, whatever his responsibility, should feel the burden of responsibility whether from medium-level officials or from normal individuals. The president said: This is Egypt and all of us must contribute to its progress and must shoulder responsibility for its sake.

The president called for the need to achieve equality among the citizens, to completely avoid exceptions, and to avoid favoritism. There must be no favoritism in public work and no favoritism for one citizen at the expense of another. All citizens are equal. There [is no place] for kinship or patronage.

Safwat Ash-Sharif stated President Mubarak demanded that enterprise and courage in [upholding] right should form the character of every official. There should be no hesitation in making decisions as long as the aim is the public interest. There must also be objectivity and the avoidance of self-interest. All actions should stem from the desire for a real contribution. His excellency added: Virtuous, continuous, and correct action speaks and expresses correct performance.

The president called for full cooperation and coordination among the cabinet members. He said there should be no dispute over prerogatives; objectives should always be clear; and we should constantly endeavor to achieve them through the best performance.

President Mubarak said: You know my method. It is the achievement of stability; for the citizen to feel it, and for it to be reflected in every performance and even in our daily life. Hence, I do not need to repeat to you that I do not use the method of electric shocks or sudden decisions. Our performance must be based on science, achievement, and studies. This achieves real stability in society.

The information minister said President Mubarak demanded that the new cabinet work be in the public interest, the entire population be motivated, and work everywhere be integrated. The president also urged the new cabinet to go into the field and to work sites to make decisions based on facts so that the definition of problems is based on reality.

The president further said there must be full cooperation between the cabinet and all the constitutional establishments, primarily the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council.

The president then made several remarks on executive action regarding the various ministries. Concerning foreign policy, the president said our political line is clear and firm. He said: We are moving on solid ground and thus our move must reflect a united visualization of this firm and clear policy. The president said Egypt's firm and clear policy is governed by nationalism and the public interest.

In the area of the economy, the president said: Our economic line is clear; it aims at developing the public sector, increasing production, and improving productivity. Our line is also clear in enabling the private sector to have opportunities in all areas of production and investment.

Regarding the Finance Ministry's policy, the president stressed the importance of promoting the Taxation Department and facilitating its dealings with citizens. The president also stressed the importance of facilitating the services dealing with the people. He cited as an example the importance of developing the Land Registry Department and improving its performance.

Safwat ash-Sharif said that during the meeting President Mubarak touched on housing, construction, and the development of new societies and modern construction planning of new cities for expansion in the future. The president pointed to the importance of establishing youth centers, parks, squares, and cultural centers to serve the societies. His excellency also pointed to the importance of constructing the northeastern and northwestern coasts according to a well-studied plan as well as the importance of the technological experts' contribution to modern building to reduce housing costs and to speed up construction.

In the health care area, the president said this issue concerns all citizens and free hospitals and their administration must be developed and promoted. The president also stressed the importance of completing the buildings that serve the health sector and of increasing hospital beds and ensuring modern treatment.

The information minister said in the sphere of local government the president pointed to the importance of exerting efforts and working in cooperation with the governors. He emphasized the importance of field rather than office work to solve the people's problems throughout Egypt. The president also stressed the importance of coordination among the local government, government, and central ministries. He underlined the importance of following up the governorates' plans.

In the area of industry the president said: I assert the importance of developing the public sector and promoting and improving its competence and administration so that production can be increased. All obstacles must be removed from the way of the public sector and the industrial private sector must be encouraged and its problems solved.

Safwat ash-Sharif said: President Mubarak affirmed the public and private sectors are twins, that nationalization will never be contemplated, that nobody should believe the rumors on nationalization, and that the workers and citizens in the private sector must understand we are a state whose Constitution respects private ownership and does not permit harming it. The president added these rumors are absolutely untrue, and the private sector must function in an atmosphere of democracy and stability, and capital must be completely secure and stable.

The president emphasized there should be no deviation from the plan but it should be adhered to completely. It is an integrated plan for the achievement of comprehensive economic and social development, and it has set priorities for work.

Safwat ash-Sharif said: In the domain of international cooperation, President Mubarak underlined the need for employing grants and loans in the best manner to attain the required results for serving Egyptian citizens through the projects and within the framework of the plan. In the field of foreign policy, the president spoke about Egypt's eagerness to establish a balance in its international relations with all states and the two superpowers for the benefit of Egypt and to serve the national aims.

The president pointed out Egypt has a civilization, a history, and a will and that its line is clear, firm, and stable. The president said: My method is one of frankness and confrontation and my choice is always governed by the national interest and commitment.

Safwat Ash-Sharif said President Mubarak told the new cabinet that, in the domain of administrative development, it is necessary to reconsider the administrative system followed in the government and the public sector with a view to giving it momentum, to developing and improving it, and to solving the people's problems and meeting their needs. The purpose of all of this is to increase production and improve productivity.

In the domain of administrative development, the president said people with expertise must participate in this field to abolish bureaucratic red tape and minimize the procedures to which the citizens are subjected in dealing with their needs for services. The president said: The citizens must be served without the intricacies of bureaucratic red tape, and this requires a revision of all the laws.

In the field of education, Safwat Ash-Sharif said the president emphasized this field is the largest, the most important, and the most momentous sector in Egypt and, therefore, a new ministry has been established. We are trying to create a generation for the future and to plan for it. For this reason, we must effect a change in basic education, reconsider the curricula, and take advantage of international expertise and take from it what suits our requirements and is consistent with society's values. The president said I must point to the importance of preparing qualified teachers. He emphasized the need for the preparation of a national program for childhood and motherhood in Egypt. The president then dealt with the importance of expanding technical education in its proper concept as well as expanding agricultural and industrial education. In the field of higher education, Safwat ash-Sharif said President Mubarak demanded a comprehensive study be prepared on developing the educational systems and university enrollment and that this study be completed within 3 months.

In the field of religious trusts [awqaf], the president said: I want more coordination between the ministry and the mosques to strengthen the latter's role in Islamic propagation and correct concepts. The president dealt with the importance of the mosques role in preparing and educating the citizen. He also spoke on cooperation between the holy Al-Azhar, [the Ministry] of Education, and the Ministry of Religious Trusts to review the religious curriculae being taught.

In the field of tourism, the president said: We must continue to exploit all of our tourist resources and to achieve the tourism growth plan begun.

In the field of economy, Safwat ash-Sharif said President Mubarak called for the need to continue supervising private and joint banks and to tighten the central bank's control. In this respect, the president said the banks must contribute to the development and services' projects for the sake of the Egyptian people.

The president also stressed the importance of encouraging the productive private sector and the importance of achieving stability for the economic policy.

At the end of the meeting, the president said youths and medium-level officials should be given full opportunities.

The president said: I have noticed there are ministries are crowded with councillors whose services have ended. This must be dictated by rules and controls based on the interest of action.

At the end of his talk, the president said: I wish you success. The people are expecting much from you. All establishments must reach a high level of contribution and performance.

Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali addressed the cabinet meeting also. He conveyed gratitude to the president for the trust he placed in the cabinet members and in him personally.

The prime minister conveyed his congratulations to the ministers who joined the cabinet. Discussing the coming stage, he stressed its importance and emphasized it is not a separate stage unconnected with the past but actually a continuation of stability of policies and of the firmness of the political line allowing the society, with its various activities, to develop according to a set program without sharp turns in its course or surprises in its progress.

The prime minister said the former cabinet under the late Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din had undertaken a huge and massive effort to confront the tasks in the interest of the greater majority and that Dr Muhyi ad-Din, God have mercy on him, had given his life for this.

The prime minister also dealt with the achievements of the former cabinet in bolstering Egypt's role and influence in international politics. The prime minister pointed out the positive achievements fulfilled during the past stage. He said: I would like to assert, Mr President, that the stability which you care about and its strengthening was a bright sign in the former stage, as was the former cabinet's supervision of the elections which were fair and enhanced Egypt's image abroad.

The prime minister reviewed a number of various activities and achievements in foreign and domestic policies, foremost of which is Egypt's return to the Nonaligned Movement, its election to the Security Council, and its resumption of membership in the Islamic Congress, all of which have achieved a unique international status for Egypt. He also dealt with the bridges of understanding extended to a number of fraternal Arab countries.

The prime minister then moved on to the new cabinet's objectives. He said the huge responsibilities entrusted to the new cabinet reflect the president's interest in the major problems facing the execution of the national action in the coming stage. He said this stage requires the mobilization of all our human, material, and spiritual resources as you, Mr President, have pointed out.

The prime minister said strengthening the democratic practice, protecting it from all forms of deviation, and consolidating the atmosphere of stability must be a basic objective of this cabinet. He stressed rebuilding the Egyptian person in an integrated [word indistinct] — that includes education, culture, moral formation, and values on the basis that the individual is the first brick in the new society — is the fundamental objective of social development during the coming stage.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali also said that society's coping with the technical and material developments of the modern world, primarily the scientific and technological revolution, will be an objective of our cabinet. He said that the new cabinet will be committed to completing the current 5-year plan and to drafting the bases and goals of the second 5-year plan.

The prime minister reviewed the economic problem. He said: The economic problem and the issues stemming from it are a major concern. We consider this problem the cornerstone of the building we aspire to erect. The most outstanding of these problems are the general budget deficit, increasing and improving production, limiting the deficit in the balance of payment, and ensuring the infrastructure that can boost investment and development.

The prime minister also dealt with increasing private sector investment and removing the obstacles impeding its total contribution to the development plan projects. He also touched on the issue of further stabilizing the economic policies to boost the development process and onthe abolition of the Investment Ministry and the formation of the higher investment body. In reviewing the economic problem, the prime minister pointed to limiting consumption, curbing inflation, and the need for making the consumption of Egyptian products a priority, a slogan the president has raised.

The prime minister also discussed the need to raise the standard of services, the wage issue, and the distribution of income to achieve justice, equal opportunities, and the optimal application of taxation laws.

The prime minister said that boosting administrative development, increasing discipline in the government and public sector departments, and simplifying government procedures must receive prime attention. He also dealt with the housing problem, urban and rural housing, and concentrated particularly on housing for the masses. He also referred to the new cabinet's role in focusing on the new societies, which represent the real challenge to assimilate population growth. He also touched on the cabinet's role in the sphere of agriculture and increasing agricultural produce.

The prime minister discussed the foreign policy to which the cabinet adheres. He said Egypt's role in the Arab and Islamic worlds, its vital location on the African Continent, its active role in the Nonaligned Movement, its affiliation with the Third World, and its excellent status in the international arena will pave the way for continued work to achieve the following tasks: consolidating the peace policy, continuing the efforts to complete the peace march to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East and a just solution to the crux of the problem, namely, the Palestinian issue; continuing the Egyptian efforts to put an end to the Iran-Iraq war; reaching an understanding with the fraternal Arab countries to unify the Arab ranks; continuing and deepening the active participation in the Nonaligned Movement; continuing Egypt's commitment to Third World issues; exerting efforts to establish more just international relations; and maintaining balance in Egypt's relations with the two superpowers, as governed by national interests.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said the new cabinet's work method will be characterized by a spirit of team work and collective administrative responsibility in making policy decisions. He said: Mr President, we pledge to you to set examples in work, sacrifice, and conduct. We pledge to you we will deal with the issues and problems with an overall policy and a comprehensive outlook. We pledge to you we will make well-studied decisions quickly. We pledge to quickly perform the tasks in a timely manner. He further said: We pledge to you, Mr President, to reduce the number of ministerial committees so the ministers can devote as much time as possible to their work. In this respect, the ministerial committees will be confined to the Higher Committee for Policies and the Committee on Economic Affairs. The Council of Ministers will focus on discussing decisions connected with the government's general policy.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: We pledge to you to address all problems in various sectors on site by going to the work places to remove all impediments and to follow up implementation.

The prime minister added the ministers will be vested with broad powers to start solving the problems related to their ministries and those problems not related to the general policy that involves the other ministries and falling within the framework of the Higher Committee for Economic Policies and Affairs.

He said: The ministries concerned must coordinate on matters that do not concern a single ministry.

The prime minister said: We pledge to the president this cabinet will not commit itself to making promises to the masses except within the limits it can fulfill. The prime minister pointed out a small achievement is better than making a promise which cannot be fulfilled. We promise the masses we will give them the facts regarding the problems and their dimensions and the means to deal with them, the prospects of resolving them, and when this will take place.

The prime minister said: We are committed to learning from all those who have expertise in matters that the government will deal with in order to gain the utmost benefit from the resources and qualifications in the various specializations.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: Mr President, these are the objectives of the new cabinet and its method of action which we submit to you while realizing the great challenges and the great aims we are facing in the coming stage. We are confident that, with God's will, we will succeed in confronting these challenges.

AL-AKHBAR: New Cabinet's Duties

NC180638 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0420 GMT 18 Jul 84

[From the Press Review]

[Text] In its editorial entitled "The New Cabinet's Duties," *AL-AKHBAR* today says: In the letter of designation he sent to Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak defined the duties of the new cabinet. These duties cover the issues raised in the Egyptian street — social, political and economic issues. The letter of designation is a sincere interpretation of the hopes and aspirations of the Egyptian people during the coming stage. The president demanded the burdens of the overwhelming majority of the people be alleviated. He requested that the Egyptian economy be directed toward serving the majority of the people.

To ease the burdens of the masses, the president demanded the plan to reform the infrastructure and utilities connected with the daily life of the masses of the citizens be completed. In the letter of designation, the president asserted the need to mobilize all our human, material, and spiritual resources to increase production. This is the most important task of the new cabinet. The main issue to solve many of our problems is the mobilization of these resources to increase production. No society can progress if it does not increase its production. Such an inspired increase can only be achieved through the mobilization of the people's creative potential and the removal of all obstacles obstructing their ability to create and produce.

In the letter of designation, the president referred to another basic issue — the technological revolution in the world and the need for Egyptians to deal with this scientific revolution, which has changed the features of dozens of states, pushing them dozens of steps forward in short periods. This is the question of the age in all the Third World states.

In conclusion, *AL-AKHBAR* welcomes the new cabinet's expressing its conviction that it will work to discharge the duties to which the people aspire which President Muhammad Husni Mubarak defined in the letter of designation.

ROSE AL-YUSUF Views Confidence in Government

PM171400 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 16 Jul 84 pp 8,9

[Fathi Ghanim article: "A New Cabinet and an Old Crisis of Confidence"]

[Excerpts] Confidence in the government's ability to deal with crises and tackle the existing problems in our society is still, I believe, the number one issue. As I said in a previous article, we need to rebuild this confidence and start from the beginning, as if we were babies trying to learn to walk. The simple and straightforward beginning is that the executive authority should prove itself capable of executing authority, of executing on time what it pledges to execute. We first want confidence in what we imagine to be elementary, such as the ability to move in the streets, whether in vehicles or on foot, without tripping and falling or becoming stranded; we want running water that does not stop suddenly without warning; and we want to live in clean quarters uncontaminated by flooding sewage and piles of refuse.

These and other things are in fact the ABC's of life; they are elementary things no person living in a contemporary society can imagine to be problems needing discussion as urgent problems to be dealt with and tackled. But the existence of such problems is, in the final analysis, an indication of a serious incompetence in the executive authority and of its inability to "execute" what it must. So we state the obvious when we say the citizen has lost confidence in the government's capabilities and competence.

Confidence cannot be won by resort to some of the naive methods which some people imagine, like organizing stage-managed demonstrations and holding gatherings and showing them on television. The desired confidence cannot be won through clapping and shouting. There can be no cheating in confidence, because it stems from the people's conscience, heart, and mind.

I have received many comments on what I wrote in *ROSE AL-YUSUF* about "change and confidence." Some of these comments say the remedy to these ills is to apply socialism, freedom, and democracy in accordance with Islamic teachings and not as we have imported them from East or West, because the latter are only slogans unfit to be put into effect.

I quite agree with such a view, except that, unfortunately, it does not mean anything specific because we use the term Islam to mean more than one thing. It is said that in ancient times the Muslims, in the name of Islam, divided into 70 groups, one of which survived while the rest perished. Had it not been for these undemocratic divisions between the Muslim groups throughout a long history — divisions from which the Islamic nation suffered — nobody would have hesitated to say the right answer to the challenges we are facing lies in Islam. Though this is the right answer, it does not face up to the existing fault, which lies not in Islam but among Muslims themselves. Nor does the fault lie in the Islamic laws, but rather in the interpretations and methods which have divided Muslims into groups, sects, and communities. So we say that what is needed first is for the people to change what is in themselves before can Islam change them; it is just like a patient who goes to the doctor and accepts his treatment, so that his acceptance becomes the first step toward cure.

I believe that work and achievement are the criteria for winning confidence, just as good deeds are the prescribed way to faith.

This leads us to another comment I have heard: How can we have confidence in the government or any government, be it old or new, if the media and the "national" press indulge in illusions, create a din over foreign problems, and overwhelm us with headlines about Reagan, Chernenko, and disarmament issues while blatantly ingoring the real issues that concern the public, failing to give them due importance and priority?

What is happening in our country has no parallel in the modern world. If interest is shown in our domestic affairs, it is in the form of sensational headlines about hundreds of thousands of pupils entering school, the building of thousands of houses, or the reclamation of thousands of feddans of land — all of which are mere wishes. The true reports that should hit the headlines in the press, radio, and television ought to talk about the shortage of educational facilities and teachers, the shortage of hospital beds, the frequent overflow of sewage, or the inability of bakeries to supply bread on time. These are the real issues of our daily livelihood that should be tackled with efforts and hard work. As for suppressing the news of what concerns the public in the first place by giving prominence to international news and diplomatic contacts, this has become wearisome as a method. Generation after generation of our people has come to realize we are cheating ourselves with this exaggerated picture of the government in its international relationships in order to compensate for its real picture of impotence in its internal relationships.

I do not quite agree with the view that giving prominence to external issues means covering up the internal crises. But it is important we reconsider things with a view to striking a balance between concern with external issues and with internal issues and realize that the question of confidence requires greater concentration and effective tackling of internal problems through work, following up matters, achievement, and giving top priority and importance to problems of shortages and shortcomings.

The question of regaining confidence is an old and chronic issue. It is useful to bring it up on the occasion of the announcement on the formation of a new government, which we hope will follow the right course in order to build confidence — the confidence of citizens in themselves and in the executive authority that serves their interest.

AL-AHALI: NPUG Leader on Parties, Mubarak

PM171440 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 11 Jul 84 pp 7, 10

[Interview with NPUG Secretary General Khalid Muhyi ad-Din by Aminah an-Naqqash — date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [An-Naqqash] Some people are talking about crises within the NPUG, divisions which could destroy it, and giants and dwarfs produced by the elections. You do not seem worried about that.

[Muhyi ad-Din] But they have been saying these things for 8 years. We have had no crisis. The political future of many of the people who made such claims has been destroyed, but the NPUG remains, and it is getting stronger and winning more and more supporters from various sides because it represents the bright side of the present and represents the future. Nobody can destroy the future. Those who see themselves as giants and claim to enjoy public support are free to do so, but facts are facts. They know that we are strong and will always be because the people have confidence in us.

[An-Naqqash] Certain forces are banking on a split within the NPUG as a result of its so-called defeat in the elections. How justified are they in doing so?

[Muhyi ad-Din] First of all I reject the claim that the NPUG was defeated in the elections. If I may say so, the NPUG was made to lose in the elections, but it was not defeated. The NPUG achieved a major victory in managing to present its program to a large number of people and to break the barrier which the authorities tried to place between the NPUG and the public by accusing it of atheism and communism. These charges soon disappeared when we began our public discussions.

The NPUG was never more united than during the election campaign. The claim there are divisions within the NPUG is untrue. There were ordinary differences before the lists were prepared but, once the lists were ready and every candidate knew his position, these differences disappeared.

[An-Naqqash] On what basis did the NPUG reject the principle of appointment to the People's Assembly?

[Muhyi ad-Din] We questioned the impartiality of the elections and maintained the elections did not reflect Egypt's political realities. Acceptance of the principle of appointment would have meant this problem had been solved, when in actual fact it has not.

[An-Naqqash] Would the formation of a Nasirite party harm the NPUG as a party or harm the idea of a left alliance as a trend?

[Muhyi ad-Din] The NPUG's position is clear and does not change. We support the right of every force to have its own independent political organization. We have supported the Wafdists right to exist, so how can we deny the Nasirites the right to have their own organization? I do not think the NPUG will be much affected by the formation of a Nasirite party.

The main point in my opinion is that the left factions within the NPUG are convinced they cannot fight the battle for social progress and economic independence alone. The unity of the left, progressive, enlightened forces in Egypt should be the first step in the long, hard struggle against the vicious imperialist and Zionist onslaught and against the Arab and Egyptian renegades. No single political power can face that onslaught alone. That is why I say that, if a Nasirite party is formed, we will try to establish an alliance and to cooperate with it if it so wishes.

[An-Naqqash] Does the NPUG support the idea of a political party to represent the Islamic trend?

[Muhyi ad-Din] The Islamic political trend is a political fact. Ignoring that fact will not negate its existence. We urge the Islamic trend to draw up a political program reflecting its views regarding solutions to the nation's problems.

[An-Naqqash] Some circles view the political situation in Egypt solely from the angle of President Mubarak's position. Do you think this is the right approach?

[Muhyi ad-Din] The presidency cannot be ignored, bearing in mind the presidential powers under the Constitution, as stipulated in over 35 of its articles. On the other hand, Egypt cannot possibly be just the president of the republic. There are other institutions, groups, and economic and political interests.

The task of introducing change cannot be confined to the president. Furthermore, I believe that, regardless of good intentions, change cannot be introduced through former As-Sadat men. Our attitude to the presidency is based on the same principle. We agree with and support the presidential steps we consider to be in harmony with or close to our program. As I said during the election campaign, our program is not a socialist one but one for reform and salvation within the present capitalist system.

Husni Mubarak the president is sometimes different from Husni Mubarak the NDP leader, although at times they are identical. Our attitude to President Mubarak is the same as to any institution in our country. We agree or disagree with them to the extent of their fulfillment or failure to fulfill what we consider to be in our homeland's interest. The fact we sometimes disagree with them does not mean we are resorting to one upmanship, as President Mubarak claimed in his latest speech and as [People's Assembly Speaker] Rifʿat Mahjub has claimed on various occasions.

[An-Naqqash] What, in your view, is the extent of President Mubarak's responsibility for what happened during the election battle?

[Muhyi ad-Din] I do not believe everything happened behind the president's back. He has enough powers to know what goes on around him. Perhaps his aides did not tell him everything. In politics I rely on facts. We are faced with an integrated system and the facts are that the excesses have occurred while he was president of the republic and NDP leader. He was responsible in these two capacities and, unless the opposite is proven, I have nothing to add.

[An-Naqqash] Why have your meetings with President Mubarak stopped?

[Muhyi ad-Din] This is up to the president himself. He is free to meet whomever he likes, but our party moves on regardless of whether or not meetings are held with the president.

[An-Naqqash] Did you actually seek a meeting and were turned down?

[Muhyi ad-Din] Yes, I did ask for a meeting, but certain difficulties prevented fixing a date. At any rate, as a party we cannot ignore the legal institutions in Egypt. We operate within the framework of this legality. The president's collective or separate meetings with the leaders of political parties are one indication of the extent of his interest in dialogue and in hearing all views.

New Book on Security Issues Reviewed in ASH-SHAʿB

PM171011 Cairo ASH-SHAʿB in Arabic 10 Jul 84 pp 5,11

[*ASH-SHAʿB* Studies Centre Review of Book Entitled: "And Peace Be Upon You" by Mahmud ʿAwad: "It Is not a Matter of Treaty, of As-Sadat, or of Pieces of Paper Israel Imposed on Us; the Serious Question Is: Does Egypt Have a Security Theory?"]

[Excerpts] Egypt's policy is written on its map. From a glance at the map we can know exactly in which direction the Egyptian policy should move and proceed, who its allies are, and from which direction the danger to it emanates.

By reading the Egyptian map one immediately determines a fundamental fact — that life has always come to us from the south and that danger from the east. Whether this danger was the Hyksos or the Crusaders, the fundamental fact in Egyptian history remains the same in all circumstances: that the defense of Egypt begins in Palestine, whether the individual facing us in Palestine was Hulago, Louis IX, Menahem Begin, or Shimon Peres. The essence of Egyptian history always repeats itself — that Egyptian security begins in Palestine. Regardless of what we want and do not want and whether we hate this fact or like it, defining the fate of Palestine has always been the first step toward defining the fate of Egypt. Egypt lived free and independent as long as it was aware of this basic lesson, and its occupation and enslavement began when it disregarded this fact.

The central subject of the book being discussed and analyzed for the first time is the question of security, the security of Egypt vis-a-vis the security of Israel. For the author the basic issue is not what As-Sadat and Menahem Begin did or did not do, nor is it Israel's treaty with As-Sadat. The basic issue is: Does Egypt have a security theory? It is the definition of this theory that would in the final analysis define for us the kind of peace compatible with Egyptian vital interests or the peace that would quarantine Egypt while it is shrinking in fear at what is going on around it and incapable of influencing it.

From this point Mahmud 'Awad proceeds to discuss the critical questions Israel has foisted upon the Egyptian citizen with the aim of distorting his view and blinding him to his country's real interests.

One of these questions, for example, is: What have we to do with Palestine? In fact, in justifying Egypt's commitments to Palestine we stated all the reasons except the sole fundamental one, which is the higher vital interests of Egyptian security without Yasir 'Arafat, the PLO, or the Palestinian problem having anything to do with it.

Egypt, because of its location and central importance, has always been coveted by foreign powers. It has been so without this being dependent on its behavior, exactly like a sponge that becomes soaked with water willy-nilly. When in the past century we accepted restrictions on our Armed Forces and national industry we paid a heavy price, the British occupation of our country. And when we dug the Suez Canal and failed to read the political danger it represents as a geographical fact, Egypt became the property of the canal instead of its being owned by Egypt. When we ignored Palestine and what was happening there, we were surprised one morning by a new hostile and aggressive state knocking at our eastern door with bombs, guns, and planes.

Israel itself came into being in Palestine as a direct result of early defects in the Egyptian security theory. Through those defects Zionism first infiltrated Palestine and then in the following 50 years went on to build a state before our very eyes without our paying any attention. We did not pay attention because we thought that Palestine was sufficiently distant from us. This was the first fatal bullet to hit the Egyptian security theory.

But while in the past the danger that threatened us from Palestine used to vanish after we dealt with it, this time the danger has come to Palestine to stay. Thus Israel has become the big stick the major foreign powers hire against us.

Once again we hear voices telling us: What do you want with Israel? Leave Israel alone. But the problem is we cannot afford to leave Israel alone because it will not leave us alone. In 1956 Israel made desperate efforts in the U.S. Congress to prevent the United States from contributing to financing the Aswan High Dam. Israel believes that Egypt's backwardness is one of the guarantees of Israel's security. Previously it carried out a series of sabotage actions against British installations in Egypt to prevent Britain from evacuating the Suez base. Israel believes the colonization of Egypt is one of the guarantees of Israel's security. In 1961 Israel produced its first missile, but as soon as Egypt considered producing its own missile to protect itself, Israel dispatched its spy, Wolfgang Lutz, to Egypt to send explosive packages to the German scientists taking part in the Egyptian missile program, to force them to flee from Egypt.

Mahmud 'Awad says: We are now face to face with an Israeli arsenal that threatens every house on our streets. This is a fact, but it is a fact that is neither permanent nor final.

It is not permanent because the heart of the matter is Egypt's strength and not its weakness; it is not final because what we are talking about is not the settlement of scores of the past but exploring the possibilities of the future.

The future of the Arab world and the Middle East has always rested on deciding the future of Egypt, and deciding the future of Egypt depends, of necessity, upon the alternatives open to us.

What are these alternatives?

Some voices say: Neutrality. Let us declare Egypt's neutrality and everything will be fine: The sick will be cured, the poor will become rich, the fighter will have a rest, the hungry will have their fill, and so on.

Mahmud 'Awad says: Supposing that in international politics there is a cure-all called "neutrality" and that we obtain it from the nearest pharmacy and take this medicine before and after meals for the craving of a sick man who wants a cure and a society that wants comfort. We will then forget the opportunism and immorality contained in this "solution" and that it is possible for a man to maintain neutrality between the murderer and the victim or between the enemy and the brother.

Egypt was in fact a neutral state and only an international official declaration recognizing this status was lacking. It was so for 40 years in the past century — from 1842 to 1883. It was hostile to no one and did not even possess an army by which it could express hostility toward anyone. It had no ambitions nor did it pose a threat to anyone.

To what did this neutrality lead? It led to British occupation of our territory for more than 70 years. There is a definite and recurring lesson in international politics, that if a country adheres to neutrality, it ceases to be a state. Its morale wanes, its decline becomes certain, and its occupation in the end will become inevitable.

The call for Egyptian neutrality is in fact a call for the occupation of Egypt, even if the neutrality advocates do not realize it. The life of peoples is like the life of individuals; it is born from sufferings and blood. The interests of peoples become endangered as soon as they encounter opposed interests that want to establish themselves. Protecting these interests is not achieved by withdrawing in the face of opposing interests nor by hoisting the white flag, because this is surrender. Nor is it achieved by declaring an impotent neutrality because this is not a matter of what one desires but is dictated by power relationships.

Those calling for the neturality of Egypt are in fact calling for surrendering Egypt's fate entirely to Israel in which case Egypt will not become the "museum" of the Middle East, as they claim, but its cabaret.

Mahmud 'Awad then goes on to reply to the rest of the policies being advocated. Some people advocate the idea that Egypt should withdraw from Arab politics on the grounds Egypt has offered sufficient sacrifices for the sake of the Arabs. Did it not fight four wars for their sake?

Mahmud 'Awad says: Personally I am an Egyptian Arab nationalist and strongly believe in Arabism. Despite all my belief in Arabism I believe that if there were a government in Egypt that sacrifices the life of my brother, colleague, or neighbor for the sake of "others" outside our borders, no matter who those "others" are, we should demand that its members be immediately executed.

Peoples do not display sympathy for one another with blood. Though they may display sympathy for one another with tears, expressions of rejoicing, and other sentiments, they preserve the blood of their children for one purpose only -- the defense of their existence. It is this defense that prompted us to sacrifice our blood and not the defense of "others."

Nevertheless, some people are doubtful and ask: Was our going to Palestine in 1948 in defense of our existence?

The answer could be yes or no, depending on the theory in which you believe. Supposing a bandit came and lived in the house next door to you. He would whisper in your ear: You are my friend and I like you; so don't stop in my way. I will impose a levy on all the inhabitants in the street but I will exempt you alone from it. Leave me alone and I will leave you alone.

Then you will hear two voices within yourself. One says: This is possible. It is true that he is a bandit and imposes levies by force but he is doing this to others and not to you. Be thankful and sleep contentedly.

The other voice says: You can never sleep contentedly as long as this bandit is doing this to the residents of the streets. As soon as he is finished with them, he will defintely turn on you. So it is better to join forces with the others while they are resisting him instead of waiting for the others to perish and then finding yourself alone when the bandit turns on you.

Some people say we have made a mistake by linking ourselves to the Arabs. We were the strongest among them and now we have become the weakest. We were the richest and now we have become the poorest. Therefore, we must accept any peace Israel offers us.

We were the richest and now we have become the poorest among them. This might be true. But is it the Arabs' fault? Even if it was their fault, would we, by accepting "any peace Israel offers us," be punishing the Arabs or ourselves? Did we from the beginning become the "poorest among them" because of their evil intentions or because of a conspiracy they hatched so they might benefit from it?

No, no, these voices would hasten to reply, it is not exactly so. But God has endowed them with great wealth and oil so they may squander it left and right without once seriously thinking of helping us to stand fast.

Well, supposing this is true, what do you want? They would tell you: Let us let follow their road, and we will follow ours, which is separate.

'Awad says: I object to this in principle. The Arabs do help us. The basis of our relations and feelings should not be whether or not the Arabs help us. In the first place they are not helping us but helping themselves. Every Arab rial, dinar, or pound that comes to Egypt does not come to Egypt as such, but as a contribution toward defending themselves.

We Egyptians worked hard and sweated to build the Aswan High Dam on the Nile to stop the flood. But if we had not built that dam we would have saved money and effort but the Nile flood would have taken us unawares us in our own homes.

The Arabs are doing the same thing. Any Arab dinar, rial, or pound that comes into Egypt serves one and the same objective which is of common concern to us all. We in Egypt are facing the danger on the front line. This danger is a common danger and facing it is a common responsibility in which we have a share which we must shoulder with or without the others.

Mahmud 'Awad, in his new, sensational book "And Peace Be Upon You," published by the Dar Al-Mustaqbal Establishment in Cairo, says: Of course, Israel wants peace as we do. But our peace is radically different from that desired by Israel. The clash between us is not basically a clash of peace and war. It is a clash because every side wants to impose the peace which suits it and which suits its objectives of peace.

What Israel wants first and foremost is the peace of power.

The sense of power has its own logic which makes those who wield this power always imagine they are capable of everything. If we add to this the fact that Israel comes to us, whether during fighting or negotiations, imagining it has a recommendation from heaven that it is God's chosen people and that it represents the genius that will guide us in our backwardness to the right path, then we would be facing an extreme case of a desire for dominance and for arrogance of power.

Therefore, before we discuss what did happen and what did not happen we must discuss the vital issue which surpasses in importance all other issues: Does Egypt have a security theory? What is it? What does it mean? What are its components? Why have some people been deliberately concealing the study of it and its lessons in the past years? Is the security theory based on the assumption of the best conditions or is it based on assuming the worst logical possibilities and preparing for them in advance?

This is the fundamental issue which Muhammad 'Awad discusses in his book "And Peace Be Upon You," and to which he devotes the most detailed and comprehensive chapters. He says: In the past years some people have deliberately been propagating amongst us the theory of Israeli security, but nobody ever examined the vital issue of Egyptian security itself. The Egyptian security theory is the only compass that should guide Egyptian policy because the matter does not concern a single ruler and what he did and did not do. It concerns the future of Egypt, the vital interests of its people and the future generations.

Chad's President Habre Ends Visit to Cairo 17 Jul

NC171106 Cairo MENA in English 1048 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Cairo, July 17 (MENA) — Chadian President Hissein Habre left here this afternoon, winding up a three-day visit to Egypt. The Chadian guest was accorded an official send-off at Al-Qubbah Palace. President Husni Mubarak and Mrs Mubarak bade farewell to President Habre and Mrs Habre.

Uganda's Vice President Departs Cairo 17 Jul

NC171330 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1154 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA) — Paulo Muwanga, Uganda's vice president and minister of defense, left Cairo this afternoon aboard a private plane on his way home after a 5-day visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Antisubmarine 'Warships' Join Naval Forces

NC171149 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1129 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA) — Three modern antisubmarine warships have arrived in Egypt's territorial waters from China to join the Egyptian naval combat forces as part of the plan to modernize and develop these forces.

Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, will hoist the Egyptian flag on these modern ships on 26 July to mark their joining our naval combat forces.

The antisubmarine naval units, called the Hunters [al-qannasah], are the principal formation in the naval forces to combat submarines. Each Hunter has a sonar device to search for and discover hostile submarines. They are armed with depth rockets and normal antisubmarine depth charges. They are equipped with a 57-mm and 25-mm air defense system. These warships are highly efficient, can move swiftly, and are capable of maneuvering.

Communique No 1,529: Iranian Plane Downed

JN171627 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Communique No 1,529 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 17 July 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. While joining our proud people in their celebrations of the 17-30 July revolution, our brave Armed Forces are affirming their superior ability to defend great Iraq and the glorious Arab nation. They are asserting their heroic readiness to confront the rapacious aggressors and realize further triumphs over the enemy forces on land, at sea, and in the air. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. At 1225 today, an enemy fighter plane attempted to violate our airspace east of Basra. Our competent air defense means intercepted the plane, and fired a direct hit on it. The plane fell inside Iranian territory. It was seen falling in flames and crashing in front of our forward positions east of Basra.

2. Using various types of weapons, one of our forward units pounded a number of enemy positions and weapons emplacements east of Basra, killing a number of soldiers and destroying two infantry positions and one hardware stockpile.

3. Sighting a number of enemy soldiers opposite its positions in the Maysan sector, one of our forward units engaged them and inflicted three casualties. The others were forced to flee in disarray.

4. One enemy observation post was destroyed and those manning it were killed in the central sector of the front.

5. The criminal Iranian ruling clique shelled the township of Shandri in the Sayyid Sadiq subdistrict with heavy artillery at 1130 on 16 July . Twelve shells fell on the township, injuring one woman and damaging two houses.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 July 1984

Commander on Advanced Firepower, Iranian Offensive

JN180626 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0545 GMT 18 Jul 84

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jul (INA) — An Iraqi military commander has emphasized that the Iraqi forces now possess a new, advanced firepower that is greater than the one employed in any other previous battle.

Staff Major General Mahir 'Abd ar-Rashid, commander of the III Army Corps, said that any new Iranian offensive will be totally annihilated because the Iraqi soldiers, who are in a state of absolute military superiority, are waiting to crush this offensive. Regarding the enemy's possible resort to new techniques in its offensive, the Army Corps commander said that all eventualities are thoroughly studied by the field commands. He described the recent battles east of Basra as ferocious battles during which the Iranians lost their elite military divisions.

Dailies on Anticipated Iranian Offensive

JN180900 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 18 Jul 84

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jul (INA) — The newspaper *ATH-THAWRAH* has emphasized that the Iranian regime is now getting ready to launch a new offensive against Iraq after completing preparations for this purpose.

In an editorial today, the paper says that this offensive will be doomed to abject failure and crushing defeat. The paper highlights President Saddam Husayn's statement that the next battle will, God willing, be a decisive historic victory to be added to the glories of Iraq's heroes and an abject historic defeat for the enemy.

The paper adds that by its insistence on its wicked ambitions and intentions against Iraq and the Arab nation, the Iranian regime is making a big mistake that will bring about its downfall and total destruction.

The paper asserts that Iraq — now at the end of the 4th year of war — possesses a strong, cohesive internal front, increasing military capabilities, and ever growing advance weapons and experience.

It adds that Iraq, which is currently celberating the 16th anniversary of the glorious July Revolution, has passed the dangerous stage and decisively succeeded in bolstering the successful Iraqi march in keeping evil away from the Arab nation.

The official newspaper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* says that last year Iraq scored great victories of tangible strategic value, most important of which was the defeat of the strategy of exhaustion which the Iranian regime used against Iraq.

In an article today, the paper adds: Iraq has destroyed all the new hostile Iranian attempts, foiled the Iranian scheme, and passed one of the most difficult tests Iraq was exposed to during wartime.

It stresses that Iraq has succeeded not only in defeating the strategy of attrition, but also in turning it into a strategy which has exhausted the enemy itself. Iraq, it adds, has successfully planned to destroy all of the Iranian regime's military adventures and to crush the largest possible number of its human and material powers.

Concluding, *AL-JUMHURIYAH* says: Iraq has imposed a siege on the Iranian regime's capabilities to export oil and has spectacularly succeeded in this regard.

Ramadan on Iraqi Economy, Gulf War, Egypt

JN180748 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0535 GMT 18 Jul 84

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jul (INA) — A high-ranking Iraqi official has said that the strategies of the economic programs and both the military and popular mobilization in Iraq are now being implemented on the basis of a permanent war-footing.

In a statement to the newspaper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* published here today, Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, stressed that these strategies have promoted Iraq's military and economic capabilities.

He indicated that the Iraqi economy is currently witnessing a boom in all spheres. He said: We will shortly reach an advanced state, especially after the strategic projects aimed at promoting Iraq's economic resources and expanding the volume of oil and non-oil exports are accomplished.

On Iraq's international relations, Ramadan said that during the war Iraq enhanced these relations, particularly with the important and influential international circles. He pointed out that Iraq has bolstered its relations with the most prominent European states, headed by France, giving these relations a new dimension. He noted that the Iraqi-Soviet relations have recently been developed and have progressed in a manner that distinguishes them from the relations which prevailed during the first 2 years of war against the Iranian regime.

He said that Iraq's international relations with the socialist, West European, Latin American, and African countries have developed noticeably. He stressed that despite the negative aspects of some relations, the final outcome affirms that Iraq enjoys a prominent political status on the international level despite the war.

Regarding Iran's threats to close the Strait of Hormuz, the Iraqi official said: This closure will mean suspending the utilization of ports in the entire Gulf, particularly in Iran. This does not concern Iraq because it lost its activity in the Gulf on the 1st day of the war. He indicated that this threat is part of an international extortion.

He said: Iran struck at the Kuwaiti and Saudi tankers upon the directives of Syria's rulers to prevent Iraq from striking at the Iranian tankers and eventually break the Iraqi blockade. He added: This reflects the fact that the Iranian economy is affected by the Iraqi blockade.

Regarding Egypt's return to the Arab fold, Ramadan said: Iraq considers this return one of its pan-Arab goals at this stage. He emphasized that Egypt will return to the Arab nation before too long. He pointed out that Egypt has adopted distinguished stands toward the Iraqi-Iranian war. Moreover, he said, its position on the Palestine question has begun to grow and to conflict generally with Camp David.

Friendship Delegation Visits USSR 16 Jul

JN161450 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 16 Jul 84

[Text] Moscow, 16 Jul (INA) — The Iraqi-Soviet Friendship Society delegation headed by Minister of Justice Mundhir Ibrahim met here today with Mrs Zinaida Kruglova, chairman of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship with Foreign Countries. Mrs Kruglova highly praised Iraq's peaceful initiatives to end the conflict with Iran. She blamed Iran's stand of rejection for the failure of these initiatives. This came while welcoming the Iraqi delegation. Mrs Kruglova said that continuing the Iraq-Iran war will only serve the imperialist forces, which are trying to escalate this war in order to reinforce their positions in the region. She praised the developing Soviet-Iraqi relations, saying that this development shows strong cooperation between both countries.

Mundhir Ibrahim, who arrived here on Friday to attend the friendship days celebrations beginning today, praised the USSR position, which understands the Iraq-Iran war and its developments.

Meets Education Minister

JN161455 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 16 Jul 84

[Text] Moscow, 16 Jul (INA) — A delegation from the Iraqi-Soviet Friendship Society led by Iraqi Minister of Justice Mundhir Ibrahim met here today with Mikhail Prokofyev, president of the Iraqi-Soviet Friendship Society and USSR minister of education. The two sides reviewed ways of promoting the advanced relations of friendship that exist betwen the USSR and Iraq in serving the two countries' people. During the meeting, Prokofyev reiterated that prolonging the Iraq-Iran war only serves the imperialist forces, which seek to escalate this conflict, and that terminating this war will serve all the forces of progress and peace in the world.

The Iraqi minister praised the USSR's stand and its understanding of the war the Iranian regime is waging agaisnt Iraq. He stressed that fruitful cooperation between the two countries will continue in service of mankind and its prosperous future. The Iraqi minister also praised the USSR's peaceful stands on arms race issues, and the USSR's endeavors to achieve world peace and to ward off the threat of a nuclear catastrophe.

Meets Government Official

JN171733 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text](Nizar Belyayev), deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, received in Moscow today Iraqi Minister of Justice Mundhir Ibrahim and his delegation. During the meeting, which was attended by the Iraqi ambassador in Moscow, the two sides stressed the importance of strengthening relations between the two countries. They also reviewed the Arab Gulf developments. (Belyayev) stressed the importance of ending the Iraq-Iran conflict, because its continuation serves only the imperialist powers.

'Arafat Holds Amman Press Conference 17 Jul

LD171132 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1038 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Amman, 17 Jul (KUNA) — PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said today he will preside over a meeting of the Islamic Mediation Committee tonight in Jidda to discuss ways of stopping the Iraq-Iran war. He told a press conference here that hs is also trying to bring Egypt back to the Arab fold, and said Israel and the United States will continue to reject an international conference on the Middle East problem if the situation in the Arab region remains as it is.

'Arafat, who held talks with Jordanian King Husayn and Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat yesterday, said the PLO's relations with the Iranian Government are continuing, and that he has exchanged messages with them. He did not give further details about these messages but he said: "We are trying our best to convince the Iranian brothers that this war is against Iran, against Iraq, against the Islamic countries, and against the nonaligned countries."

'Arafat said tonight's meeting in Jidda of the Islamic Good Offices Committee is aimed at ending the Iraqi-Iran war.

The committee consists of 'Arafat and the heads of state of Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Guinea, the Turkish prime minister and the foreign ministers of Senegal, Gambia, and Malaysia as well as the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization. The committee was formed by the Islamic Summit Conference in At-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, in January 1981.

'Arafat said: "Our objective at present is to put out the fire of the Gulf war, and we are racing against time in this regard."

He added that the situation in the Middle East was disrupted after former Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat signed the Camp David accords with Israel in 1978, and again after the war between Iraq and Iran began in September 1980. He pointed out that the Gulf war has changed the equation "and has led to Iraq's departure from the struggle. The Arab Gulf countries also came out of the equation [word indistinct] and their involvement in the expansion of the Iraqi-Iranian war." [words indistinct]

He said the PLO agreed to the convening of an international conference on the Middle East crisis in light of these balances following the October 1973 Arab-Israeli war.

'Arafat said that in order to restore the balance of power, Egypt must be returned to the Arab ranks and the Iraqi-Iranian war must end. Israel and the United States "cannot participate in an international peace conference as long as the Arab situation in the region remains the way it is."

He explained: "We are trying to bring Egypt back to take its natural place in the Arab nation, and we are not asking for the impossible." He pointed out that Egypt now has started to take steps "away from the Camp David policy." He welcomed Cairo's recent step of restoring diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, whom he described as a friend of the Arab nation and the Palestinian people.

Regarding relations with Syria, he denied reports that a committee from the Fatah movement, which he leads, will be visiting Damascus "in order to correct relations with the Syrian leadership."

He said: "We do not want the correction to be from one side." However, he described recent talks with Syrian officials by Faruq Qaddumi, member of the Central Committee of Fatah and head of the PLO political department, as successful.

He refused to answer a question about whether he had a meeting with Syrian Vice President Rif'at al-Asad in Geneva last week. However, he pointed out that his relations with Al-Asad "have not been severed."

Regarding the PNC, the parliament in exile, he said: "We have the majority of members of the council, but we are anxious to have a plenary session so that its political decisions will be unanimous."

'Arafat praised Jordan's relations with the PLO. He said the two sides have agreed "on unified action and joint policy to confront what is happening to our people on the political and economic scene and to confront organized Zionist terrorism controlled by officials in the Israeli Government and Army, and also to confront the threat to Islamic and Christian holy places in Jerusalem and in the whole of Palestine."

He said King Husayn briefed him on his recent talks with French President Francois Mitterrand about the Palestinian question "and the international efforts exerted to restore to the Palestinian people their right to self-determination."

He praised the French president's stand on the Palestinian question, as he also praised the Saudi stand. He said that during his recent visit to Saudi Arabia he discussed with King Fahd two main topics, which are: "the assigned Arab support, which has begun to corrode [yataakal], and the subject of the Zionist plan backed by America to threaten the holy places."

On the upcoming Israeli elections he said that whether the opposition Labor Party or the ruling Lukud bloc wins "matters not because both are ugly expansionist Zionists and our Arab nation must confront both."

'Arafat said: "I am anxious to visit Egypt as soon as possible, and when Arab-Palestinian conditions and Palestinian-Egyptian conditions make it possible for me, I shall carry out this visit."

He added that his relations with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak "have not been severed at any time."

'Arafat Makes Statement, Departs Amman 17 Jul

JN171310 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Amman — Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has said that the results of his talks with His Majesty King Husayn and senior officials concerning the developments of the Palestine question and the current situation in the Arab region were very important and positive. In an exclusive statement to the JNA correspondent, 'Arafat said that he is very satisfied with the development of the stages of Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation, coordination, and joint action.

'Arafat held a press conference at the guest palace this morning in which he spoke about Palestinian-Jordanian, Palestinian-Arab, and Palestinian-international relations as well as the PLO's stand on international issues, especially the Iraq-Iran war and the call for an international conference for Middle East peace. 'Arafat announced at the press conference that during the Jordanian-Palestinian talks, an agreement was reached on a common policy to confront the occupation authorities' measures against our kinfolk in the occupied Arab territories in the political, economic and settlement fields, especially the systematic Zionist terrorism supervised by figureheads in the Israeli Government and Army. 'Arafat said that an agreement was also reached on drawing up a common policy to confront Israel's plan to Judaize Muslim and Christian holy places as well as all Israel's occupation plans.

'Arafat said that Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation has passed the stage of coordination and has now entered the stage of joint action on the Arab and international levels to cope with the developments. 'Arafat announced that the PLO is ready to participate in any international conference to solve the Middle East question provided that the legitimate Palestinian rights are not prejudiced in any way. 'Arafat expressed his conviction that the United States and Israel will not agree to the convocation of this conference so long as the situation in the Arab region remains as it is.

'Arafat said that the PLO has begun earnest efforts to rectify the defect in the Arab ranks by returning Egypt to the Arab fold and moving it away from the Camp David policy, and to put out the fire of the Iraq-Iran war. He added: Egypt has indeed begun to take practical steps away from Camp David. It resumed relations with the USSR and alerted its naval forces to protect the PLO fighters when they were forced to leave Tripoli by sea. 'Arafat said that the relations between Egypt and the PLO are good and that contacts between them have not stopped. He announced that he will visit Cairo at the earliest possible opportunity when circumstances are appropriate. He affirmed that there is nothing to prevent him from visiting Cairo.

Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, left Amman at noon today following a 2-day visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. During this visit, he met with His Majesty King Husayn and held talks that dealt with the future steps of Jordanian and Palestinian sides in light of the new developments in the Arab region and the international arena. 'Arafat also held a round of talks with Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat and senior officials.

'Arafat was seen off at Amman civil airport by Sulayman 'Arar, deputy prime minister and interior minister; Tahir al-Masri, minister of foreign affairs; and Tariq Madi, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry. He was also seen off by Dr Hanna Nasir, member of the PLO Executive Committee; Brigadier General 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya, PLO representative in Amman; Colonel Samir al-Khatib, director general of the PLO military department; Nabil 'Amr, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat; Najib al-Ahmad, director [of the office in Amman]; 'Ala ad-Din Husni, charge d'affaires at the PLO office in Amman; and several senior PLO officials.

Jamal as-Surani, member of the PLO Executive Committee; and Rafiq an-Natshah, PLO representative in Saudi Arabia, left with 'Arafat.

PLO Radio Reports 'Arafat, King Husayn Meeting

JN171717 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Amman — Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met in Amman yesterday with the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn. The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by PLO Executive Committee memebrs Hamid Abu Sittah, Jamal as-Surani, and Mahmud 'Abbas; Fatah Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan; and the Executive Committee representative in Amman. On the Jordanian side, it was attended by Crown Prince Hasan; Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Court; 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, minister of the court; Staff Lieutenant General ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; Sulayman 'Arar, deputy prime minister and interior minister; Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri; and Raja'i ad-Dajani, secretary general of the Royal Court.

In another development, Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar met with Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat at the Prime Ministr's office yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed the current situation in the Arab region.

Foreign Minister on Constructive PLO Talks

JN180910 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Jul 84 pp 1, 20

[Muhammad Abu Ghawsh dispatch]

[Text] Amman — Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has described the Jordanian-Palestinian talks as constructive.

In a statement to *AD-DUSTUR*, the foreign minister said: As usual, the talks were characterized by a spirit of confidence, openness, and frankness.

He added: The two sides gave their assessment of developments that might take place in the region and the international arena in the next months.

He pointed out that both sides stressed that convening an international conference constitutes a suitable basis for settling the region's issues. He said that both sides were aware of the increasing understanding of the concept of convening this conference by many effective parties and forces in the world. He added that this support would provide the parties concerned about peace with a strong incentive to continue and intensify their efforts on all levels.

The minister explained that the two sides expressed their belief in the need to promote contacts, coordination, and joint action during this stage in order to confront the developments.

Al-Masri said that the two sides discussed the results of French President Francois Mitterrand's visit to Jordan and Yasir 'Arafat's meeting with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in Geneva.

Attempt To Storm Al-Aqsa Reported

JN171643 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Occupied Jerusalem — A Jewish terrorist, a student at a rabbinical school, tried to storm the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem with his car today. However, the Israeli source quoted by AFP did not indicate whether the car was loaded with explosives. He said that the terrorist is insane, and that the car stalled because of the narrow path leading to the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

It is noteworthy that the Jewish terrorists' crimes against the Arab holy places have been continuing since the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories. Every time the occupation authorities have described the terrorists as insane, especially those perpetrating the criminal attacks against the holy mosque. It was recently disclosed in Tel Aviv that there is a Jewish terrorist scheme to strafe the Al-Aqsa Mosque from the air in order to destroy it. This shows that the Jewish terrorists' assaults are being encouraged and sponsored by Israeli officials and by many figures in the Israeli Army who sympathize with them and support their criminal schemes.

Cabinet Decides To Restore Relations With Iran

NC181109 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1058 GMT 18 Jul 84

[Dispatch from Radio Correspondent at the Presidential Palace — recorded]

[Excerpts] At its session in the Presidential Palace in B'abda this morning, the Cabinet decided to authorize the Army to draw up a study and draft a security plan for the mountain.

The Cabinet also decided to hold an emergency session to be attended by the chairman and members of the Military Council to study the parts of the security plan that have already been implemented in Greater Beirut.

The Cabinet decided to restore diplomatic relations with Iran.

Prime Minister Karami Comments on Security Plan

NC181124 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 18 Jul 84

[Text] The Cabinet session ended at 1230. Prime Minister Rashid Karami had the following to say after the session:

[Begin recording] [Karami] Actually, the Cabinet focused its attention on implementing the security plan in Beirut and applying it to other areas. Hence, the discussion dwelt on what has so far been implemented. The part of the plan that has been implemented is reasonable. However, there are steps within this plan for which we should work to bring about their implementation. Therefore, the Cabinet decided to hold an emergency session, to be attended by the military council, to review what has taken place and what should take place so that we definitely proceed toward attaining the desired objective — a return to normal life.

[Unidentified reporter] Your Excellency, did you raise the question of the north and the south in light of what has taken place and is taking place in these two areas?

[Karami] It is no secret that the security plan is a general one and must cover all the Lebanese areas in a manner consistent with the unity of the institutions, people, and the state. Therefore, we focus our attention on Beirut and will continue our study of the plan to make it cover all areas. We hope that we will soon be ready to begin implementation of the plan in all Lebanon.

[Reporter] Your Excellency, has a date been fixed with regard to the emergency session [words indistinct]?

[Karami] No. We are still waiting for the return of Minister Nabih Birri so that the emergency session can take place.

[Reporter] There is much talk about obstacles facing the application of the security plan in the mountain area. Is it true there are obstacles and what are they?

[Karami] As far as I know, there are no obstacles.

[Reporter] Is there a date set for applying this plan to the mountain?

[Karami] There is no specific date set. But I hope it will be soon.

[Reporter] (?Will) the security plan cover Tripoli and the north before the mountain?

[Karami] I have heard and read this news over some radios and in some papers, but I have no idea. [end recording]

MONDAY MORNING Interviews Defense Minister

NC180804 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 16-22 Jul 84pp 31-33

["Text" of interview with the minister of national defense and agriculture, 'Adil 'Usayran, by *MONDAY MORNING* correspondent Mona es-Said; date and place not given]

[Text] [Es-Said] How would you assess the conditions and orientation of the Army today after the changes and appointments that have been made?

['Usayran] The situation of the Army today is much better than it was before we recently introduced some changes in it. I expect the role of the Army to be vital for the survival and future of Lebanon. This has been made possible by the new orientation towards cohesion and equality within the Army. We trust this will lead to a much stronger Army capable of executing the orders given to it by the political leadership in the country. When the politicians are in agreement over the future of Lebanon, the Army becomes an effective tool to further their policies. We believe this process has now started.

[Es-Said] So you believe the orientation of the Army has changed...

['Usayran] Yes it has, because, in the first place, its leadership has changed, and in the second place, the Army is expected to become very different from what it was in the past. This is because the majority of the soldiers realize that it is in the interest of the country to have an approach and point of view different from those which prevailed in the recent past. Whereas in the past the Army was sectarian, it is now becoming more tolerant, making room for a diversity of thinking and beliefs which is necessary in any successful democracy.

[Es-Said] So, in your opinion, it is possible to reunify the Army to enable it to impose law and order regardless of sectarian considerations...

['Usayran] Yes, why not? It is possible, and as a matter of fact, the Army is now unified. This new spirit of unity has been introduced in the Army by the new leadership, be it at the political level or within the Army Command. As a result of this new spirit we are already witnessing a great improvement in the internal cohesion and strength of the Army. This will boost the Army's morale because its elements firmly believe that the Army should be built on nationalist and patriotic foundations rather than any sectarian considerations.

[Es-Said] The Soviet Union has expressed readiness to supply weapons to the Lebanese Army, while Lebanon has concluded arms agreements with the U.S. Do you intend to accept this new offer with a view to diversifying the sources of arms?

['Usayran] The Soviet Union's offer was a generous gesture. I appreciate this move on the Soviets' part and I have sent them a word of thanks. For the moment, there is no immediate need for the Army to order new equipment. However, we shall not hesitate in future to buy arms from any source that will be available to us, depending on the self-defense requirements of the country.

[Es-Said] So the Army has enough weapons now obtained from the U.S. and France?

['Usayran] Yes. As you know, Lebanon has bought an adequate supply of arms in the last year or two. It has spent huge sums of money on new equipment, mainly from the U.S. and France.

[Es-Said] Has Lebanon taken delivery of all the arms it bought from the U.S. and France?

['Usayran] Lebanon has received most of the arms it decided to buy.

[Es-Said] The present deployment of Army brigades in Beirut suggests that security decentralization is being applied on the ground, though not officially. Is this a temporary or permanent situation?

['Usayran] What has been applied on the ground must be temporary. Since we are seeking the unity of this country, there is no reason for it to turn into a permanent situation. In fact, the government's policy is to make all Army brigades balanced in their sectarian composition so as to eliminate all differences between them.

[Es-Said] But practically speaking, this has not happened on the ground...

['Usayran] Maybe, but we did take a decision, on the eve of the implementation of the security plan, to bring back Christian elements into the (mainly Shi'ite) Sixth Brigade and to bring more Moslems into predominantly Christian brigades. We believe it would be wise to implement this policy gradually.

[Es-Said] What are the obstacles which are preventing this from happening now?

['Usayran] After ten years of civil war, we do not expect all problems to be resolved in one week. Time is needed in order to create a political consensus on some decisions.

[Es-Said] In future Army deployments, will a Druze brigade be sent to the mountains, as a predominantly Shi'ite brigade is now in West Beirut and a Christian brigade in East Beirut?

['Usayran] This is not the government's policy. The Army will continue to be a unified Army. In any case, if this (deployment on sectarian bases) was true in the past, it shall not continue to be true in the future. The intention of the leadership is to have a unified Army. It may be true, however, that under the present circumstances the commander of a brigade sent to the Ash-Shuf will be a Druze. This would facilitate his task in the present conditions. However, we believe that all Army brigades should include elements from every sect in the country.

[Es-Said] How soon will the Army be deployed in the mountains?

['Usayran] This will be done in the next stage of the security plan. We hope this issue will be discussed at the next Cabinet meeting.

[Es-Said] Contradictory positions have appeared concerning the issue of security arrangements in the south. There is a trend advocating direct negotiations with Israel and another calling for arrangements without direct negotiations with Israel. Another view is that Israel should be expelled by means of the armed national resistance. Where do you stand on this matter?

['Usayran] Generally speaking, the government's position is to conduct negotiations through a third party. This party might be the United Nations or the United States, and it would also be possible to ask for the help of France, Britain, or some other country. The idea is to have indirect negotiations based on the 1949 armistice agreement between Lebanon and Israel.

As far as the Lebanese resistance to Israeli occupation of the south is concerned, we believe it embodies the legitimate right of every people fighting for its freedom. Everyone knows that this resistance was spontaneous and that it came as a natural reaction by the Lebanese people to Israeli oppression. This government is very sympathetic to the national feelings of its people and it is ready to support them if there is no other way of liberating the south from occupation.

I personally believe that resistance and negotiations are not contradictory. In fact, Israel will not consider leaving south Lebanon if the people accept its occupation without resistance.

[Es-Said] How could the outcome of the July 23 Israeli elections affect Israel's policy on south Lebanon? In other words, what are the chances of an Israeli withdrawal in the coming months?

['Usayran] The change will be only in emphasis, not in basic policy. There is no way to convince the Israelis to withdraw from south Lebanon except by showing them that the people of the south will never accept their continued presence. And I believe that the Israelis will eventually withdraw — whichever is the ruling party in Israel.

[Es-Said] What are the chances of the Army going to the south?

['Usayran] This government's policy is to have the Lebanese Army deployed in every part of Lebanon and there is no reason why it should not go to the south. We are planning to send two Army brigades to the south to ensure peace and security throughout the area.

[Es-Said] The Council of Ministers has appointed a committee of officers to study ways and means of liberating the south. What do you expect this committee to do? Do you expect it to reach concrete results regarding the issue of security arrangements?

['Usayran] We expect the officers to study all the ways and means by which south Lebanon can be liberated from Israeli occupation. Security arrangements are among the possible ways which will be explored with a view to achieving our objective, namely, a total Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

[Es-Said] Do you concur with the view that since the militias are still armed, the security plan can only provide a truce?

['Usayran] I think we have reached the end of the militia business and that in the future there will no longer be any disagreement about who should carry arms in Lebanon.

[Es-Said] In other words, you believe that the militias will be disarmed?

['Usayran] As political agreement inside the country grows and as the Lebanese Army becomes stronger, they will eventually give up their arms.

[Es-Said] The Council of Ministers has also appointed a high-level committee to follow up the release of kidnap victims. How do you expect this problem to be settled, keeping in mind the differences among various ministers on the matter?

['Usayran] There are no differences among the ministers on this matter.

[Es-Said] There are reportedly two views: Some believe that the names of hostages who have been killed should be announced, while others believe that if the names are published a negative reaction is inevitable...

['Usayran] All names will be announced — including those of the dead, which will be made public, in due time.

[Es-Said] Do you expect this problem to be settled soon?

['Usayran] Yes, certainly.

[Es-Said] When do you expect the names to be made public?

['Usayran] No one can tell before the committe ends its findings, because it has lists to study and verify. It cannot declare somebody dead unless it is proven that he is dead.

[Es-Said] Don't you fear a negative reaction if the names of the dead are made public?

['Usayran] Surely, a strong reaction is expected. We have considered this possibility.

Al-Hariri Leaves for Saudi Arabia 17 July

NC172100 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri left Beirut for Saudi Arabia this evening aboard his private plane after a visit of several days to Lebanon. During his visit he met with senior officials and discussed with them the situation in Lebanon, particularly the role of the [words indistinct] in participating in the reconstruction and development of Lebanon especially after recent incidents.

Sham'un, Pierre al-Jumayyil View Security 17 Jul

NC171246 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] The Lebanese Front held its weekly meeting at Pierre al-Jumayyil's residence this morning, with all members attending. It discussed current Lebanese security and political issues.

Former President Sham'un was asked whether the discussion touched on events in the north. He said they had in a general way. Current reports say that clashes there have ceased, that both sides are retreating, and that calm has been restored. Sham'un was also asked about the security plan for the mountain. He replied: Ask me about this after tomorrow's Cabinet session so we can talk about its implementation date. Sham'un wished Pierre al-Jumayyil good health, saying: I found him in excellent shape, praise the Lord.

Meanwhile, Pierre al-Jumayyil regarded the security plan a major triumph for Lebanon. He said this plan has put the Lebanese at ease and made them see the extent of the catastrophe that befell Lebanon, which will not vanish until the government's authority is fully restored.

Pierre al-Jumayyil said: We opted for democracy out of conviction. There are thousands of ways the opposition can express its opinions, including through the parliament and through the right to demonstrate. Demonstrations, however, should not bypass regulations set by the democratic system. Also, the government cannot be brought down without going through a certain democratic procedure.

Pierre al-Jumayyil said that it is deplorable if the Lebanese people still do not understand that they cannot survive without a lawful government — despite the fact they are one of the most intelligent peoples on earth. After all the devastation that befell Lebanon, Pierre al-Jumayyil said that you still find persons who think they can live in chaos. Pierre al-Jumayyil added: It is high time for the Lebanese to have mercy on themselves and their country and to work for extending the government's authority to every part of Lebanon. It is in the interest of all that the government becomes stronger and that its authority extends more widely. He also called on everyone to understand the importance of restoring normal life in Lebanon.

Franjiyah Urges U.S. Pressure on Israel

GF171517 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 16 Jul 84 p 1

[Muhammad 'Anan dispatch from Beirut]

[Excerpt] In an interview by *AS-SIYASAH*, Sulayman Franjiyah, former Lebanese president, has urged the Lebanese Government to sever its diplomatic relations with the United States if the U.S. Administration will not exert pressure on Israel to pull out from Lebanese territories.

President Franjiyah accused the Lebanese regime of bad management. He said: "The distribution of the sects in the brigades of the Lebanese Army Command is a destructive step and the security plan will not actively be implemented as long as the heavy weapons are still in the hands of the militias. Such weapons must be put under the control of observers from the Lebanese, French, and Arab forces. The role of the observers is only to supervise and to inform about any violation by any party.

Franjiyah Reviews Al-Kurah Events, Security Plan

NC171524 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] [Former] President Sulayman Franjiyah held his weekly news conference this morning at his summer palace in Ihdin. At the start of the news conference, he thanked His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and his aides for the efforts they have exerted and are continuing to exert to restore life in Lebanon to its normal course. He said the latest noble gesture by his excellency the struggler leader is his interest in the Al-Kurah issue. We have responded [to this gesture] with all love and appreciation from the first moment we were informed of it.

President Sulayman Franjiyah glorified our noble martyrs who fell in the arena of honor. He wished the wounded a speedy recover. He said that the courage and competence of our heroes is not surprising. They are the sons and grandsons of the Al-Maradah who fell as martyrs throughout history in order to protect their soil and people. They are today taking their noble grandfathers as an example and will continue in the future to make sacrifices for a single purpose, namely, to defend Lebanon's territories and people against anyone who thinks of committing aggression against Lebanon.

Answering a question on whether the security plan will include the north, President Sulayman Franjiyah said: You recall that I have always wished that the security plan would start at the presidential palace and move in all directions up to the borders. What I wish for today is that the events of Al-Kurah will not be exploited in order to ignore the ground where there is continued fighting and to forget this part of the territories which needs, more than the north, the implementation of the so-called security plan.

At the beginning of his replies to questions, President Sulayman Franjiyah denounced the criminal attack on Talal Salman, owner of the *AS-SAFIR* newspaper. He wished him a quick recovery so that he will be able to resume his message of defending right and the homeland's issues.

Responds to Questions

NC180934 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0630 GMT 18 Jul 84

[Excerpts] Former President Sulayman Franjiyah yesterday held his weekly news conference in which he commented on the situation in Lebanon and particularly on developments in the Al-Kurah. Franjiyah responded to journalists questions in the following way:

Question: What proposals do you have for implementation of the security plan?

Answer: This plan was drawn up by the government, which is said to be implementing it. I know nothing about the details of its implementation save for what has been published by the press.

Question: Your stand on what concerns partition and cantons is well known. However, some people are referring to a northern canton. How would you comment?

Answer: In all humility, I can state that up to now I have been consistent. I have always reiterated that I am opposed to any partition of Lebanon and to the establishment of cantons. The charges saying that I am in favor of partition and cantons are unfounded.

Question: What is your appraisal of the statement made in Damascus [on the agreement between the Al-Maradah and the Nationalist Syrians]? Do you agree with it?

Answer: The agreement in Damascus was reached during a meeting at the office of Syrian Vice President Abd al-Halim Khaddam. The agreement was signed by our representative and by all representatives of the other side. I hope that this agreement will not be relegated to cheap use by the media and that it will be honored by both sides.

Question: What would you do if the other side does not abide by the agreement?

Answer: We will cross this bridge when we come to it.

Question: Some committees have been formed for liberating the south from occupation. How do you view this and what proposals do you have?

Answer: We all know that committees are like graveyards and that we cannot liberate the south by relying on them. The liberation of the south depends on the stand taken by the United States. As long as the United States is entertaining the dream to dominate the Arab countries through Israel, there will be no liberation. The only way to liberate our sacred land and Jerusalem is to take a stand toward the United States — even an individual stand — and to warn it that it should force Israel to return to its pre-1967 borders. Any other method [for liberation] is a waste of time and a way to deceive the people.

Question: Following the security plan, the government intends to convoke the Constituent Committee amid proposals to expand the government. How do you stand toward all this? Are you in favor of such proposals?

Answer: I certainly am in favor of such proposals because everybody had agreed in Geneva on an expanded government. The way the government was formed later on was based on other political considerations.

There is a lot that we read nowadays, but nothing is being implemented unless it suits some members of this government.

Question: Who are you going to name for membership in the Constituent Committee?

Answer: When I am asked to name them, I will.

This is all I can say for the time being.

Reportage on Call for Anti-Israeli Protest Strike

Amal Urges 'Peaceful' Strike

NC172003 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] In denunciation of continued Israeli practices to divest southern Lebanon, western Al-Biqa' and Rashayya of their national leaders, ulema, and people, all the political, spiritual, and cultural figures have condemned the deportation of Ulema Muhammad Hasan al-Amin by the Israeli occupation forces.

The Amal Movement issued a statement this evening calling for a comprehensive peaceful strike in all of Lebanon tomorrow, but without staging demonstrations and without disturbing the security of the citizens.

The statement said that public utilities, such as Beirut Airport and port, will be exempted from the general strike tomorrow, and that the strike will be expected to express a united Lebanese spirit that is determined to repudiate and resist the enemy regardless of the sacrifices.

Businesses Asked To Close

NC180639 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 18 Jul 84

[Text] Amal personnel, without their fatigues, were spotted this morning erecting a checkpoint on the Holiday Inn road in West Beirut.

Amal instituted foot and mobile patrols in various areas in West Beirut, asking shops and businesses to close down in solidarity with the call made yesterday in protest against the deportation of Shaykh Muhammad Hasan al-Amin from the south.

Leaders Urge Peaceful Strike

NC171715 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Excerpt] His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, mufti of the Lebanese Republic, and His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council, issued a joint statement after a meeting today.

The joint statement urged the people of Sidon and southern Lebanon to stage a peaceful general strike tomorrow.

The strike is to denounce and protest against Israeli practices and the deportation of Ja'farite judge Ulema Muhammad Hasan al-Amin.

General Strike Observed

NC181116 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Jul 84

[Excerpt] A general strike was observed today in Beirut and other Lebanese areas in protest against and in denunciation of practices Israeli forces and their agents are carrying out in the south — practices culminating in the deportation of religious leaders from the south. The most recent such event was the deportation of the Ja'farite mufti in Tyre, His Eminence Ulema Muhammad Hasan al-Amin.

VOL Reports Cease-Fire Violation in Beirut

NC180602 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 18 Jul 84

[Text] Between 2030 and 2115 yesterday, the Sannin, Galerie Za'tar, and Al-Mughayyiri areas received volleys of machine gun fire from As'ad al-As'ad Street. Meanwhile, two RPG's were directed at Sannin and a hand grenade was thrown at Galerie Za'tar.

It is worth noting that this security disruption is the first of its kind since the implementation of the security plan in greater Beirut. In a similar development, Kafr Shima was subjected to a barrage of machinegun fire from Ash-Shuwayfat.

Last night, 27 French observers arrived in Beirut to replace a similar number of observers. The French observers' commander said that the operation is routine, part of the rotation process which has been in effect since the cease-fire agreement 4 months ago.

Syrian Troops in Al-Biqa' on Higher Alert

NC180617 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 18 Jul 84

[Text] In a telephone contact with our correspondent in Al-Biqa' last night, he told us that the Syrian forces in Al-Masna' and Majdal 'Anjar have elevated their degree of alertness. There was no immediate explanation for the Syrian step.

Resistance Fighters Attack Israelis in South

NC180549 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 Jul 84

[Text] Within the context of their daring operations against the Israeli occupation forces, Lebanese national resistance fighters yesterday attacked Israeli vehicles positioned in the Jall al-Bahr quarter, north of Tyre.

They also attacked an Israeli convoy on the Tyre-An-Naqurah road near the township of Al-Qulaylah. In a third operation, national resistance men attacked an Israeli patrol on the Tayr Dibbah-Ma'takah road. The Israeli occupation forces sustained grave losses. They retaliated by mounting searches, attacking southerners, and causing property damage to the Jabal 'Amil hospital.

In the An-Nabtiyah area, resistance fighters carried out their fourth operation against Lahd militias near the Haruf crossroad. The resistance fighters used rockets and machine guns in their four ooperations.

In the Al-Baruq area, resistance men detonated an explosive device when an Israeli patrol was on the Kifrayya road. Two Israeli vehicles were put out of commission.

Israeli Military Vehicles Enter Al-Kharrub

NC180921 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 Jul 84

[Text] At 1030, an Israeli occupation force comprising 10 vehicles entered the Al-Kharrub region via Ar-Rumaylah and took up positions in Ktrmaya and Mazbud.

Activities at Arab Parliamentarians Meetings

Az-Zu'bi Receives GDR Parliamentarian

JN171404 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1240 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Damascus, 17 Jul (SANA) — Herbert Fechner, chairman of the interparliamentary group in the GDR People's Chamber, has praised Syria's role under President Hafiz al-Asad in foiling all imperialist schemes in the region. This came while People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi was receiving Fechner, currently visiting Syria to participate as an observer in the Arab parliamentery speakers' meetings.

Fechner reiterated the support of the GDR's leadership and people for the Arab Palestinian people in their struggle to establish their homeland and to liberate the occupied Arab territories.

At the beginning of the meeting, Az-Zu'bi praised the GDR's stands in support of the Arab struggle. He asserted Syria's determination under President al-Asad to continue struggle to foil the hostile schemes, liberate the occupied Arab territories, and regain the Arab Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

The GDR parliamentarian delegation then visited the liberated city of Al-Qunaytirah, and was acquainted with the destruction caused by the criminal Zionist hands.

Khaddam Receives Arab Parliamentarians

JN171559 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Damascus — Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received speakers of Arab parliaments at 1200 this afternoon. The meeting was attended by People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi. Talks focused on the situation in the Arab arena, developments in the region, and the need for joint Arab action against Israeli and imperialist plans hostile to the Arab nation.

At 1330 this afternoon, Khaddam also received Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Muhammad Yusuf al-'Adasani. The meeting was attended by Mahmud az-Zu'bi. Talks focused on the situation in the region, and relations and cooperation between Syria and Kuwait.

Ash-Shar' Receives Lebanese Deputy

JN171919 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Damascus — Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' received this evening Munir Abu Fadil, deputy speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies who is participating in the Arab parliamentary speakers' meetings being held in Damascus. The talks during the meeting revolved around the current political situation in the region in general, and the situation in the Lebanese arena in particular.

Parliamentarians Issue Final Statement

JN172030 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] A Final statement on the proceedings of the Arab parliamentary speakers' meeting was issued today. It says:

Under the patronage of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and at the invitation of Judge 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, president of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] Council, and Mahmud az-Zu'bi, Syrian People's Assembly speaker, the annual meeting of Arab parliamentary speakers was convened in Damascus, APU headquarters, 16-17 July 1984. Delegations representing parliaments in Jordan, the UAE, Tunis, Algeria, Djibouti, Sudan, Syria, Somalia, Palestine, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, the YAR, and the PDRY participated in the meeting. The meetings of this session were chaired by Syrian People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi on behalf of the APU president.

The participants reviewed the current situation in the Arab and international arenas, and the need to confront the challenges and dangers of the current stage. Subjects on the agenda of the 72d APU conference were reviewed. Arab parliaments' positions and efforts in future conferences and forums were coordinated.

The participants objectively and democratically discussed the subjects on the agenda, giving special emphasis to issues of Arab destiny. They stressed their unwavering belief in the Arab nation's ability to achieve victory; liberate Palestine and all of the usurped territories; defeat all foreign ambitions; reject all capitulationist plans; and conduct serious work along the march of Arab solidarity to achieve justice, prosperity, and progress for the Arab society.

The Arab parliamentarians participating in this meeting also expressed their appreciation and thanks for the hospitality and generous sponsorship they were accorded in Syria. They also expressed appreciation of Syria's pan-Arab role under President Hafiz al-Asad in confronting the Zionist-imperialist aggression and defending the Arab nation's higher interests. They also expressed their gratitude to the brothers in the Syrian People's Assembly for their great efforts to provide comfort for the participants and success for the meeting. The participants reached the following resolutions, recommendations and directives:

1. Arab Unity in Opposing Zionism

A. Arab parliamentarians call on Arab governments to undertake practical steps to purify the Arab air; to build effective Arab solidarity that would defeat both present and future dangers, and preserve Arab dignity and sovereignty to confront the principal enemy of the Arab nation, represented by the Zionist danger; and to adopt practical political and economic steps against the United States. It is the ally and partner of the Zionist enemy, and its expansionist policies are hostile to the firm rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

B. Arab parliamentarians call on the brothers in Arab Egypt to foil the Egyptian-Israeli agreement and the Camp David accords just as the 17 May agreement in Lebanon was foiled. They express their belief that Egypt is able to remove this obstacle, return to the Arab rank, and practice its pan-Arab role.

C. Arab parliamentarians urge more democracy and popular participation in making political decisions in the Arab homeland.

D. Arab parliamentarians also urge the Arab masses to struggle to foil any practices or intentions aimed at normalizing relations between the Arabs and the Zionist enemy.

2. The Palestinian Cause.

Arab parliamentarians hail our kinfolk's steadfastness in the occupied Arab territories, the Golan, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip as well as. Those inside [Israel] and their heroic confrontation of the terrorist fascist, racist Israeli practices. They call for stopping the carnage and oppression to which the Palestinian people are subjected in the camps and population areas, and for providing security and defense requirements for these areas. They reiterate that the Palestinian cause is the central cause for Arab struggle, and stress the need to concentrate all Arab resources and energies to face the Zionist aggression and confirm the Palestinian Arab rights.

The Arab parliamentarians reiterate their rejection of all capitulationist and liquidatory plans which forsake Arab rights. They declare that the Fes summit resolutions represent the minimum acceptable level of guaranteeing Arab rights in Palestine. They stress the need to adhere to the objectives of the PLO Charter and to the armed struggle option, and the need to mobilize the Palestinian people's potentials to guarantee that the struggle continues and that victory and liberation are achieved.

3. The Lebanese Situation.

A. The Arab parliamentarians express their satisfaction with the start of restoring security and stability to Lebanon within a security plan implemented with effective Syrian backing and support.

B. The Arab parliamentarians bless the national reconciliation steps being implevented in Lebanon by the national unity government on the path of stability, unity, liberating the occupied territory, and restoring full sovereignty over all Lebanese areas. They also bless the good offices and great efforts being exerted by Syria and other Arab sides to realize this reconciliation and place Lebanon on the path of restoring its Arab role.

C. The Arab parliamentarians salute the Lebanese people's heroic struggle in the occupied territory and the Lebanese resistance's confrontation of the Israeli occupation forces.

D. The Arab parliamentarians praise the historical victory Lebanon and the Arabs have realized by foiling the 17 May agreement and the capitulatory agreement the Zionist enemy has been trying to impose on the Arab states, beginning with the Camp David agreements. The parliamentarians value Syria's great role in this regard under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad and the great help it has extended to Lebanon to this effect. They also praise the Arab nationalists and those supporting the Arab cause for their stand toward Lebanon.

E. The Arab parliamentarians voice their full solidarity with the fraternal Lebanese people on the road to strengthening the march of national reconciliation to preserve the freedom, Arabism, sovereignty, and independence of Lebanon. They demand that the Arab governments extend all types of moral and material support to rebuild Lebanon and to enable it to restore its normal position.

4. Syria's Pan-Arab Role.

The Arab parliamentarians denounce all types of imperialist and Zionist threats to and pressures on Syria. They express their firm condemnation of these threats and warn that any imperialist-Zionist aggression on Syria or on any other Arab country will be an aggression on the entire Arab nation, and that the security of fraternal Syria is an internal part of the Arab nation's security. The Arab parliamentarians salute Syria's firm stands in facing all types of pressures and threats, as well as its vehement confrontation of the Zionist and U.S. imperialist plots that are aimed at making the Arab nation surrender. They also highly value Syria's prominent pan-Arab role under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad in defending Arab rights and interests.

5. The Situation in the Gulf and the Attacks on Oil Tankers.

A. The Arab parliamentarians express their concern over the outbreak of the Iraq-Iran war, which has greatly harmed both the Iraqi and Iranian peoples as well as the region, and has disrupted the two sides' role in facing the Israeli enemy. They voice their concern over the attacks on the oil tankers, particularly the Saudi and Kuwaiti tankers, and the possible expansion of the war as a result of these attacks — something which would harm regional security and vital economy as well as world security and peace. They affirm the right of free navigation in international waterways for all ships going to and from the ports and installations of the littoral states that are not party to the hostilities. They support the international and regional efforts aimed at ending this war and settling the problems between Iraq and Iran peacefully and on the basis of guaranteeing justice for both sides.

B. The Arab parliamentarians have approved the request to list the problem of the aggravating dangers in the Middle East as a result of the continuous Zionist aggression and the developments in the Arab Gulf on the agenda of the 72d APU conference, and the request to coordinate the Arab delegations' stands during this conference. They also approved continuing the dialogue and contacts with the European Parliament to explain the Arab viewpoint on the current events in the region.

C. The Arab parliamentarians saluted the people in Africa, Asia, and Latin America who are struggling against all forms of colonialism, backwardness, and racial discrimination. They affirmed the Third World's demand for a revision of the world economic order.

6. Holding the Jewish Conference in Morocco.

The Arab Parliamentarians affirm the need for a full and accurate commitment to the Arab boycott of Israeli decisions. They consider any contact or meeting with the Israeli entity as a deviation from the various Arab and Islamic resolutions, a flouting of the values of Arab struggle, and a contempt of the blood of Arab martyrs. They condemn any individual, group, side, or regime that may hold such a meeting or contact. They express their grave concern over and condemnation of the holding of the Jewish conference in fraternal Morocco in which leaders of world Zionism and representatives of the Israeli entity participated. They ask the Arab leaders and governments to take the necessary measures and steps to prevent any contact or meeting with the Zionist enemy, because such a meeting or contact would be a deviation from the Arab nation's will.

[Signed] Damascus, 17 July 1984

Arms Deal With Cyprus Reportedly Concluded

PM171455 London AL-MAJALLAH In Arabic 14-20 Jul 84 p 3

[Untitled report from "*AL-MAJALLAH* Correspondents' Dispatches"]

[Text] An arms deal including Soviet-made Strela antiaircraft missiles, which can be fired from the shoulder, has recently been concluded between Syria and Cyprus. Diplomatic sources in Cyprus believe there is close cooperation between the Syrian and Cypriot Governments in the political and security fields. Within the context of this cooperation the Cypriot Government has released 10 people accused of assassinating Palestinian 'Abd-allah as-Sa'di, who belonged to a certain Palestinian group and who was killed near Limassol early in June. The detainees have been deported to an Arab state. The PLO office in Nicosia protested to the Cypriot Government for releasing them without trial.

Oil Minister Confers With Iranian Ambassador

LD172037 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Damascus, July 17 IRNA — Hojjat Ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, the Islamic Republic ambassador to Syria, Monday held talks with the Syrian oil minister, Ghazi Durubi, here. The Syrian minister expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Islamic Republic ambassador in Syria in strengthening economic relations between the two countries. Also, in this meeting the expansion of economic ties between Iran and Syria was discussed.

Khaddam Receives Moroccan, GDR Officials

JN171827 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam today received Morocco's Parliament Speaker Ould Sidi Bab. The meeting was attended by the charge d'affaires at the Moroccan Embassy in Damascus. Talks dealt with the general situation in the Arab region and with recent developments.

At 1830 this evening, Khaddam received Herbert Fechner, chairman of the interparliamentary group in the GDR People's Chamber. The meeting was also attended by the charge d'affaires in the GDR Embassy in Damascus. Talks centered on the current situation in the region and bilateral relations between Syria and the GDR.

AL-BA'TH Notes New U.S.-Israeli Military Agreement

JN171036 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 17 Jul 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "A Reckless Jump in U.S.-Israeli Relations," *AL-BA'TH* says: U.S.-Israeli relations are making large strides toward a unified strategic perspective that is perhaps the first of its kind in international relations. After the signing of the strategic cooperation agreement between Washington and Tel Aviv and in the wake of the U.S. military and political stands in support of the Zionist entity's aggressive projects against the Arabs, Washington last year called for promoting this agreement with a new agreement that provides for new joint military exercises in the Middle East. According to the *NEW YORK TIMES*, these exercises are aimed at preparing the U.S. and Israeli Armed Forces for joint war operations.

Today, amid UN efforts to explore the appropriate way to hold an international conference on the Middle East conflict to establish peace in this hot area, reports speak about a new military agreement being prepared by the United States for joint U.S.-Israeli war operations in the Middle East. These reports add that such an agreement will turn Israel into something like a U.S. aircraft carrier in the Middle East in preparation for deploying U.S. forces in the area.

AL-BA'TH indicates that if such an agreement is enforced, it will be a new mark in U.S.-Israeli relations because it will be a serious development that poses an unprecedented threat to all chances of peace and security in the region. The United States will then directly stand against any national cause advocated by any people on the basis of this people's national principles, interests, and rights. By its direct involvement in the Arab-Israeli conflict, the United States increases the chances of a destructive confrontation between the West and the East. Therefore, the region's states, particularly Syria, are entitled to reinforce their security and protect their principles and interests with means and weapons matching those of the enemy, and to depend on their friends to create the required balance that will allow them to confront this aggressive imperialist expansion that has reached the highest limits of indifference to the future of mankind.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Syria has announced on various occasions that developments of U.S.-Israeli relations will not frighten us because we are the owners of a cause that we will defend with all available means. We will always look for suitable means to bolster our cooperation with our friends in the proper way to protect our security, uphold our principles, and wrest our just rights even if Israel does turn into a U.S. aircraft carried in the Arab nation.

Damascus Commentary on Agreement

JN171259 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] The United States has taken a new step toward what U.S. military circles describe as a preventive blow that would subjugate the Middle East to the U.S. decision and constitute the basis Israel will adopt to entrench its occupation of the Arab territories, including southern Lebanon. The U.S. Administration deliberately announced its new agreement with the Zionist entity at the same time the United Nations is working to contain danger and prevent the collapse of world peace as a result of any collapse in the Middle East.

When the United States announces that it is preparing an agreement regarding an Israeli-U.S. military action, then the Arabs must be the target and the joint aggression will only be against the Arabs, their aspirations, and consequently against international efforts and their approaches that would serve the peace of the world and region. This overt U.S. hostility toward the Arab nation exposes the real face of Arabs who run after U.S. solutions. At a time when the deviationist regimes promoted their confidence in Washington's diplomacy, the U.S. State Department leaked reports about the new military agreement with Israel as though it were saying to the reactionary Arabs: Your concessions will not relieve you of punishment and your love for the United States will not provide you with protective shelter as long as the United States is the other side of the Zionist coin.

The constants of the U.S. policy are represented by their complete commitment to the Zionist objective and direct hostility to the Arab hopes. Consequently, this policy is a course that cannot be justified by any Arab rulers even those who are enthusiastic toward everything that is American. The Israeli-U.S. military action will not relieve other Arab territories from occupation. Moreover, it will not relieve those rulers of being administrators under the canopy of the Zionist empire. We do not believe that this overt U.S. announcement of a military action has taken place away from the U.S. interpretation of the state of submission of those who control Arab masses and destinies. When the Americans and Zionists signed the agreements of strategic alliance, the Arab capitals that revolve in the U.S. orbit did not react in a manner that would prove the Arabism of those capitals. When Israel became an arsenal and a base for nuclear missiles, those Arabs did not see any danger. On the contrary, the U.S. military maneuvers with the Zionist army were an echo of the U.S. maneuvers with Arab armies such as the Jordanian and Egyptian Armies. All the U.S. support for Israel was not enough to convince the Arabs that the United States will only support Zionism and act against Arabs and Arabism.

Still, we must remind the United States and the Arabs who connive with U.S. policy that it is impossible to go back to the past, and that all the drawn up plans and agreements, and those which are under preparation, will not change the new balances in the region. Syria has promised the Arab people in all their countries that it will be their shield and the fortress to protect the Arab land from the Zionist invasion and U.S. hegemony. If U.S. diplomacy exploited its alliances with Israel and those who connive with it to overtly direct its pressures toward Syria, then this does not mean that the parties to the aggression are in a strong position, but only in a position to make allegations and in a state of frustration. The time when Israel had a long arm will not be repeated, and the claims that the only option for the Arabs is to compromise their rights is no longer the decisive word in the region's policy. The aggressors and those who kneel on the doorsteps of the U.S. White House must believe that Syria is a force for all Arabs, that its pan-Arab course is the one that will achieve victory, and that what its struggler leader Hafiz al-Asad has confirmed is the only decision and option, because it is the Arab masses' decision and option.

Palestine Broadcast on Dialogue, Reform

JN171751 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Palestine Broadcast: From "On the Events" program]

[Text] There are a number of basic facts on which all the forces constituting the National and Democratic Alliances in the Palestinian arena are agreed. These facts are: First Yasir 'Arafat has adopted a political course that is contrary to the national political course of the Palestinian revolution. Second, through his practices, Yasir 'Arafat has violated the PLO's statutes and its national charter. He has also injured Palestinian national unity. Third, reforming the situation in the PLO on a progressive nationalist basis is a struggle necessity. By agreeing on these points, the National and Democratic Alliances are supposed to jointly embark on a course for achieving reform.

But what happens when 'Arafat's Central Committee says in its dialogue with one of these two alliances that it agrees with all or some of these facts? The question here is whether or not 'Arafat's Central Committee is responsible for the political course 'Arafat has adopted. Is that committee a partner in the responsibility for his deviations, or not? How can this committee be honest with itself when it says that it stands for national unity based on a progressive nationalist course, while it is rightist in its structure? How can it wear the progressive mask to make the people believe that it has become progressive, while they know the truth of its rightist stands and reactionary ties?

Many questions present themselves and consequently raise the query as to whether the behavior of 'Arafat's central committee is the same type of maneuver as the old 'Arafat maneuvers. The goal of those maneuvers was to strike the unity of the nationalist progressive position in the Palestinian arena to infiltrate into this arena, regain initiative, and impose their rightist hegemony over it by exploiting the crack this would cause.

This is the reason we are calling on the National and Democratic Alliances to hold a serious dialogue between them, with the aim of setting the procedures for a national democratic reform that has no room for any further 'Arafatist hegemony and deviation.

Shamir on Rumors of Contacts With Syria

TA180713 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 16 Jul 84

["Excerpts of an interview conducted by *LA'ISHA* magazine correspondent Tzipi Roman with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, appearing in the 16 July issue of the weekly". Date and place of interview not given]

[Excerpt] Question: There are rumors of secret contacts with the Syrians concerning a mutual withdrawal from Lebanon prior to the elections. Is this true?

Answer:... I hope that one day we will be able to come tell the Israeli public that tomorrow the IDF is leaving (Lebanon). I can't say anything about any type of negotiations we're conducting; in any event, there's no truth to the published report about discussions with the Syrians.

Question: You're not holding back anything for two days before the elections?

Answer: In state affairs we won't act according to election considerations. If taking a particular action — and publicizing it — will be productive, at a date that, coincidentally, is before the elections, we will do so. If there is harm in revealing something — damage to the state — in revealing something that might be able to help in the elections, we won't reveal it.

Question: Sounds as if I hear a hint. Could this be?

Answer: Nothing. Don't look for anything that isn't in what I said. I'm speaking from the standpoint of principles — how I act, and how I'm thinking of acting.

Trade Zone Agreement To Be Signed in 2 Months

TA171251 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Israel and the United States will sign the agreement to establish a free trade zone between the two countries within 2 months. The agreement will go into effect on 1 January 1985. This was stated today by Industry and Trade Minister Gid'on Pat in a meeting with journalists upon his return from talks in Washington. Our correspondent Me'ir Einstein reports that the final formulation of the agreement will be concluded in the next round of talks scheduled to be held in Jerusalem in August.

French Offer To Mediate for Jordan Rejected

TA171403 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Jul 84 p 14

[Moshe Zaq commentary: "Husayn's Address"]

[Text] French Army troops suffered casualties in Lebanon, both in the framework of the Multinational Force and UNIFIL. These casualties did not deter France. Fifty French officers remain in Beirut to supervise the cease-fire, and a French battalion still serves with UNIFIL in southern Lebanon.

France has even benefitted politically from its military involvement in Lebanon, but this benefit is not confined to Lebanon's boundaries. To wit, King Husayn, who has been losing sleep over the fear of foreign military intervention in his country, is now seeking the support of political elements which could rush troops to intervene militarily in times of distress. This was the background for his dialogue with Israel, a dialogue which was put to the test in 1970, and this is also the backdrop against which one must see the ups and downs in Husayn's relations with Washington. When he becomes anxious that the United States will not be able to rush to his help due in case of domestic problems, his relations with Washington cool down, and when he is convinced about the determination of the Americans, their shares rise in the Amman stock market.

The Jordanian king was impressed when the French sent troops to Lebanon without delay. The British hesitated and debated, and finally sent a few soldiers who got out as soon as the first bullet was fired. However, the French showed their determination and prompt performance, and were not deterred by difficulties. This raised France's prestige in the king's eyes, and was reflected in the hearty welcome King Husayn accorded the French president.

Husayn does not need President Mitterrand to meet with Shim'on Peres or Yitzhaq Shamir. He has vast experience in meetings with Israeli representatives, and he does not have to go all the way to Paris to confer with them. Although Husayn met with Golda Me'ir in Paris in 1965 and even told her that he had long been looking forward to meeting her, a lot of water has flown down the Jordan River since then, and numerous meetings have been held with Israeli representatives in the Gulf of Elat, the 'Arava, and even near Tel Aviv without resorting to the mediation of others. The Jordanian king knows our address and the channels through which Israeli representatives may be summoned. This is why the rumor spread by the French weekly *LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR* about a "French Camp David" plan to have Shim'on Peres meet Husayn and Mubarak seems unfounded.

The impression Jerusalem received from French Minister Claude Cheysson's briefings about Mitterrand's meetings in Amman is that Husayn is anxious about a comprehensive debate on the entire complex of Arab-Israeli problems because this might infuriate the Palestinians. There is no doubt that the participation of Mubarak in a quadripartite meeting with Husayn cannot be reduced to discussing Israeli-Jordanian neighborly relations. Such a meeting would by definition touch upon the Palestinian issue, and would lead Husayn into the minefield he wants to steer clear of. Therefore, it is unlikely that Francois Mitterrand, who now realizes Husayn's limitations, should take such an initiative which is doomed to fail. Likewise, one should not believe the reports from Amman alleging that the French president has come out in support of the UN secretary general's plan to hold an international conference on an Israeli-Arab agreement with the participation of the superpowers.

Such a proposal runs counter to U.S. policy lines, and Mitterrand's policy has been to avoid a political confrontation with Washington regarding the struggle between the superpowers.

Those who came up with the notion of a quadripartite French-Israeli-Egyptian-Jordanian meeting probably did not give the matter a great deal of thought, since King Husayn and President Mubarak do not see eye to eye on the Camp David accords.

Husayn wants to ignore the Camp David accords which constitute the framework for a comprehensive agreement about Israeli-Arab relations. If the basis of the framework agreement which gave Egypt the right to intervene in the issue of autonomy to the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District is dropped, the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty would become a "separate agreement," whereas As-Sadat fervently sought to avoid an arrangement which would be reduced to Israeli-Egyptian relations.

Jordan and Egypt are totally opposed on the Palestinian issue despite the fact that they both belong in the camp of Iraqi supporters in the war against Iran and despite the embraces that Mubarak and Husayn have lavished on Yasir 'Arafat.

Just as Egypt did 5 years ago, Jordan now is beginning to realize that the way to a dialogue with Israel cannot start with the most complicated question, the Palestinian issue. The Palestinian obstacle only applies to that section of the border between Kibbutz Tirat Zvi and the Dead Sea, whereas on the remaining sections of the long border with Jordan there are problems which may be more easily resolved in negotiations between Israel and Jordan.

Husayn cannot discuss the "problematic" sections of the border without 'Arafat's permission. However, in the remaining sections of the border — in the 'Arava, the Gulf of Elat, and even in the Bet She'an Valley — there are problems which may be solved quietly in a pertinent dialogue with Israel, rather than under the limelight of French or U.S. mediation. To this end, Husayn must know that if his talks with Israel bring him to the verge of a confrontation with Arab military forces, the United States or France would be willing to intervene and deter saboteurs.

If Husayn is convinced about France's wish to rush to his aid in case of need, France will not have to mediate the meetings with Israel, and Husayn will then be able to find his own way.

FRG Greens Party Delegation To Visit 18 July

TA171334 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1250 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Tel Aviv, 17 Jul (ITIM) — An official delegation of the FRG Greens Party will arrive here tomorrow, and will hold a news conference at Bet Sokolov in Tel Aviv on Thursday, 19 July, at 1200 [0900 GMT].

The delegation will be the guest of the Progressive List for Peace, and its visit is planned as the first step on its part toward consolidating its position on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the State of Israel. The delegation includes Otto Schily, who is a member of the Bundestag Foreign Affairs and Justice Committee, as well as a delegate from the Greens Party's national executive. It should be noted that since the liberals headed by Foreign Minister Genscher disintegrated, the Greens have become the third strongest political power on the German map.

A spokesman for the Greens pointed out in Bonn this morning that the idea of Jewish-Arab cooperation and partnership, as reflected in both the composition and the platform of the Progressive List for Peace, seems to them the essential perspective toward resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Increase Noted in Infiltrations From Egypt

TA171104 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Jul 84 p 20

[Shlomo Giv'on report]

[Text] The security situation in settlements bordering Egypt and along the Gaza Strip is deteriorating. Hardly a night passes without a security incident. The residents must therefore implement security measures and maintain a high state of alertness to prevent infiltrations of a criminal or terrorist nature from across the border.

Last Sunday night an infiltration occurred near Ze'elim in the Western Negev. A car was stolen and probably taken to the Gaza Strip, from where it may have been transferred to Egyptian territory. Those settlers responsible for security in the villages of the Western Negev were busy yesterday investigating the incident.

Representatives of the villages met last weekend with the commander of the Southern Command, Major General Moshe Bar-Kochba. They demanded that appropriate steps be taken to forestall the dangers resulting from the nightly infiltrations, and complained about the heavy burden the villagers bear as a result.

In his reply, Maj Gen Bar-Kochba expressed his belief that the Egyptians are guarding the border to the best of their abilities, but it appears that they cannot supervise the entire border efficiently, as most of it is unfenced and has sand dunes.

The representatives of the villages asked that they at least be given the means to efficiently control the crossing points along the border.

Electric Company Cuts Power to Egyptian Base

TA180610 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Jul 84 p 3

[David Rudge report]

[Excerpt] Haifa — The Electric Corporation (IEC) confirmed yesterday that it has disconnected power supplies to the Egyptian Ra's an-Naqb air base in northern Sinai because of unpaid debts totalling $11,000. The IEC spokesman said it had taken the step after receiving the approval of government authorities here.

The former Israel Air Force 'Ezyon base was handed back to Egypt with the rest of Sinai in April 1982.

In addition to the Eyptians, the Multinational Force in Sinai also uses the airfield. Flights to and from the base are now possible only during daylight hours because of the IEC's action.

The IEC spokesman said the supply was cut off last Thursday because of unpaid debts dating back to August 1983, which have not yet been paid.

PLO Supporters Invited to Egyptian Embassy

TA180809 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 18 Jul 84 p 4

[Pinhas 'Inbari report]

[Text] The Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv has for the first time invited public figures in the territories who are identified with Jordan and the PLO to the traditional reception on the occasion of Egypt's national holiday. Egypt had previously refrained from making such a move.

Our correspondent notes that following the talks between As-Sadat and Begin in Aswan, Jordan was worried that Egypt would undercut its status in the territories. In the wake of Jordanian diplomatic dealings, Egypt promised not to carry out any activities in the West Bank (but this promise did not apply to the Gaza Strip). These recent invitations reflect an improvement in relations between Egypt, Jordan, and the PLO following 'Arafat's visit to Cairo, and shows that the suspicious atmosphere pervading their relations has evaporated.

During the period of tense relations between Egypt and Jordan and the PLO, only pro-Israeli figures such as Mustafa Dudin were invited to the receptions.

The reception at the Egyptian Embassy has been moved forward to next Sunday due to the upcoming election day.

Detained Ferry Incident Seen as Self-Defense

TA171620 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Israel says that the interception of the *Alisur Blanco* was an act of self-defense. In a letter to the UN secretary general, the number two man in the Israeli UN delegation, Arye Levin, explained that two of the ferry boat passengers who are being investigated in Israel are suspected of involvement in terrorist activity, and of plotting an operation against Israel.

Report on Israeli-Syrian Talks Analyzed

JN171549 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1335 GMT 17 Jul 84

['Ezra Shirazi "observation"]

[Text] A report last week said that during a U.S. official's recent visit to Damascus, Syria hinted that it wanted to hold indirect negotiations with Israel regarding the Israeli forces' withdrawal from Lebanon. A Damascus radio commentator yesterday tried hard to convince people that the report is baseless. We do not know why the Syrian commentator exerted such efforts and did not simply deny the report. No official Syrian source has yet denied the report.

It may be recalled that Damascus immediately followed Jerusalem in denying press reports that Syria and Israel were holding secret negotiations.

However, despite the fact that the Damascus radio commentator was not allowed to deny the report directly and specifically, should have convinced people of what he failed to do had he said that Syria has no need to hold indirect negotiations with Israel on southern lebanon.

President Hafiz al-Asad previously gave the green light to Rashid Karami to enter indirect negotiations with Israel. If Syria is concerned with indirect negotiations with Israel, the Syrian president can ask Karami to announce Syria's readiness to enter direct negotiations with Israel.

In fact, such negotiations are considered as indirect negotiations between Syria and Israel. Of course, nobody can imagine that such clear facts can be stated by the Damascus radio commentator or by any other Syrian writer. In order to clarify matters, we should explain that we are not in a position to either confirm or deny the report that Syria hinted at its desire to hold indirect negotiations with Israel on southern Lebanon. Here, we may recall the proverb: Where there's smoke, there's fire.

IDF Expels Shi'ite Clerics From South Lebanon

TA171843 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] The IDF today expelled from Sidon a Shi'ite religious judge, who is apparently suspected of engaging in anti-IDF activity. This was reported today by the man's relatives to reporters in Beirut. The man, Shaykh Muhammad Hasan al-Amin, was deported to Beirut.

According to reports from Beirut, Shaykh Muhammad is the third Shi'ite leader to be expelled from southern Lebanon recently. According to the same report, the IDF has also detained another four Shi'ite religious leaders in the Ansar camp.

Lahd Explains Expulsion

TA180428 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 18 Jul 84

[Text] Antoine Lahd, commander of the army of southern Lebanon, explained to leaders of Shi'ite villages in the Sidon area the background to the expulsion of Shi'ite cleric Shaykh Muhammad Hasan al-Amin.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the general said there is evidence that the Shi'ite cleric incited to attack IDF and army of southern Lebanon soldiers, and also encouraged acts of violence and riots.

In Sidon there is an enlarged presence of soldiers from the army of southern Lebanon today, out of fear of demonstrations in the wake of the Shi'ite cleric's expulsion.

Prompts Commercial Strike

TA181117 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Jul 84

[Text] There is no commercial activity in Sidon today because merchants responded to the call of the Al-'Amal organization in Beirut to protest the expulsion of a Shi'ite cleric from the city. In Tyre and An-Nabatiyah the commercial strike is partial. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the IDF and the army of southern Lebanon reinforced their forces in the area, but so far no disturbances have been reported.

Lapidot Comments on State of PLO Air Force

TA171742 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] The Arab countries have narrowed the military gap between their air forces and the Israeli Air Force with the acquisition of sophisticated new planes and weapons systems. However, says Israel's Air Force Chief Major General 'Amos Lapidot, Israel continues to hold the qualitative edge in its airmen and their ability. Gen Lapidot told reporters this afternoon that Syria poses the major threat to Israel in the air arena. He said that he favors a continuation of Israeli flights over Lebanon since they help prevent any surprise activity from the Syrians or the terrorists there. Gen Lapidot said that missiles have been fired by the terrorists at Israeli planes and helicopters flying over Lebanon, although none had hit their target.

Reporter Alan Ben-'Ami asked General Lapidot whether Israeli air strikes at the terrorist positions in Lebanon were proving cost-effective or were carried out more for their psychological value:

[Begin recording][Lapidot] Let's say that from the direct professional point of view and the operational point of view it seems very effective. We have very accurate hits. We can destroy targets also within the towns without hurting other targets or buildings around. We achieve the missions very quickly, in a matter of seconds. And, I think that it is effective.

[Ben-'Ami] There have been many reports that the PLO is again putting in some efforts to try and build up its own air force. It is training pilots in various countries — Arab countries and Islamic countries — and apparently it is trying to acquire its own airplanes. What exactly do we know about [word indistinct] threat? Is the effort being made by the PLO....

[Lapidot — interrupting] We know that the PLO sent in the past, on different occasions, their own people to train as pilots in different Arab air forces. We also know that they bought and acquired a number of aircraft and helicopters, and they have maintained them in different places, quite far away from our borders — although their flying activity is not high, it's quite low. They can, but they didn't try yet to use it for terrorist actions or anything like that. We cannot consider these activities as, let's say, the basis or the beginning of a Palestinian Air Force. [end recording]

Poll Shows Likud 14 Seats Behind Alignment

TA171213 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Jul 84 p 3

[Modi'in Ezrahi public opinion poll]

[Excerpts] The gap between the Alignment and the Likud stands at 14 seats, and the small parties have increased in strength. These are the findings of a public opinion poll conducted for *MA'ARIV* by the Modi'in Ezrahi Research Institute last week, between 11 to 12 July.

The poll included 1,349 interviewees representing the adult civilian Jewish population in Israel, residing in cities and moshavim. It did not include the kibbutzim and the settlers in Judaea, Samaria, and the Golan Heights.

The question asked was: If the Knesset elections were held today, which party would you vote for (in seats)?

The outstanding finding of this poll, compared to the beginning of July, is that the gap between the Alignment and the Likud has again widened (the Alignment now leads by 14 seats, as against 10 at the beginning of the month). It is important to note that the gap has widened due to a decline of 3 seats for the Likud, whereas the Alignment gained only one seat. At the same time, the number of "floating votes" has risen: 27.6 percent of the public now constitutes "floating votes," compared to 24.1 percent in the poll taken at the beginning of July. Of the "floating votes," 42 percent belong to former Likud voters, who exceed former Alignment voters in this group by a ratio of 2.8:1.

The decline in the Likud's strength can probably be explained by the fact that its former voters have slipped into a wait-and-see position (in this poll, 30 percent of former Likud voters are "floating votes," compared to 24 percent in the previous poll). A comparison of the voting intentions in the present and previous elections shows that the Alignment manages to keep a higher rate of its former voters than the Likud: While approximately 77 percent of those who voted Alignment for the 10th Knesset remained loyal to their list, only about 47 percent of former Likud voters still declare themselves party followers.

An analysis to those votes lost by the Likud indicates that nearly 11 percent of former Likud voters now intend to vote for the Alignment; approximately 5 percent now intend to vote Tehiya, and a further 3 percent for Weizman's Yahad list. The Alignment "contributes" approximately 2 percent each of its former voters to the Citizens Rights Movement and Shinuy, and "transfers" 1 percent each to Lova Eli'av and Hurvitz. Of past Alignment voters, 14 percent are "floating votes."

An examination of the voting patterns among the new voters (who did not vote in the 1981 elections) indicates that approximately 34 percent do not yet know which party to vote for, but the Alignment has a lead of 1.6:1 over the Likud among those who have decided.

The small parties whose strength is greater among the new voters than among the population as a whole are: the Citizens' Rights Movement, Shinuy, Tehiya, and Morasha.

As in previous polls, it emerges that most of the fluctuations are caused by "floating votes" or new voters, and only a few are due to a direct shift of voters from one list to the other.

The most important shift to date concerns the 3.6 percent of the population which moved from the Likud to the Alignment.

Shinuy, Yahad Sign Surplus Votes Agreement

TA180605 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Jul 84 p 2

[Text] Tel Aviv — Shinuy Knesset Member Mordekhay Virshubski said yesterday that his party has signed a surplus-votes agreement with Yahad to prevent any surplus from going to the Likud. Virshubski was speaking at an election meeting in Tel Aviv.

He explained that if Shinuy had not signed an agreement, its surplus could well have gone to the Likud, under the terms of the Bader-'Ofer law, which favours major parties. Shinuy, he said, would have preferred an agreement with the Citizens Rights Movement [CRM], but the CRM signed with the Alignment.

Virshubski stressed that Shinuy is convinced that the Alignment will form the next government, and that Yahad will join it. His remarks followed a recent criticism that the agreement could work in the favour of the Likud, if Yahad decides to join a Likud-led government.

Few Shi'ites Joining South Lebanese Army

TA171842 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Excerpt] The attempt to incorporate Shi'ite fighters within the ranks of the army of southern Lebanon is not meeting with success. So far, only about 150 Shi'ite inhabitants have joined that army, and most of them enlist only because of the high salaries offered — approximately 1,700 Lebanese pounds, which is about 60,000 shekels [per month]. Thus, it is as yet impossible to say that there is a distinct military framework that could be called the army of southern Lebanon, and this is primarily because of disciplinary problems, desertions, and resignations.

Although the soldiers of the army of southern Lebanon have recently participated in routine guardwork in southern Lebanon, the number of attempts to strike at IDF soldiers has not dropped. Early this week there were a few incidents in which the targets were IDF patrols. Hand grenades were hurled, and a roadside charge was discovered. Our correspondent Beni Lis toured Tyre today, and reports that the soldiers from the army of southern Lebanon are participating in guard and patrol work in the town.

Ties With Murdered Lebanese Businessman Denied

TA171120 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] The Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem denies that Raoul Mizrahi, who was murdered last week in Beirut, had any connections with Israel. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer notes that after Mizrahi's body was found, speculation arose that he was murdered as a result of his business ties with Israel.

Settlement Drive Continues Amid Dispute

TA171902 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] The Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs will discuss again the resolution on establishing the settlement of Avne Hefez east of Tulkarm. Nisim Zvili, the head of the World Zionist Organization's [WZO] Land Settlement Department, has appealed the decision because the land slated for the settlement has by and large not yet been transferred to state ownership.

Another settlement is expected to be dedicated tomorrow, as part of inauguration ceremonies that are being organized by the settlers prior to the elections. Our correspondent Rami Weitz reports on the dispute over Avne Hefez, as well on the settlement that is scheduled to be inaugurated tomorrow:

[Begin videotape] On the decision of the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs, an urban settlement is to be established here on this rocky hill some 4 km east of Tulkarm. Its intended name is Avne Hefez, and it is planned to house 1,000 families.

The area slated for the settlement includes, on one side, orchards and other arable, cultivated land belonging to the local inhabitants; and borders on the villages of Iktabah and Nur ash-Shams on the other side.

A document written by a top WZO source states that only 400 dunams have been examined and legally recognized as state-owned land. The same source added that the sons of local inhabitants who fled to Jordan during the 6-day war are now returning, and some of them have claimed ownership over the land.

A senior Justice Ministry source reacted to this and confirmed that only part of the land has been approved, which is why the decision was made to set up the settlement there [as heard], but in the opinion of settlement experts, the approved area will not be sufficient for an urban settlement of 1,000 families.

The ministerial committee will have to take these opinions into consideration when it again discusses this issue.

Meanwhile, the race against time continues in an effort to set up more and more settlements before the election. The settlement of Giv'at Levona was established in 24 hours, and ground-preparing work on a deserted, barren hill near Shilo for that settlement was completed yesterday. This morning, the foundations were laid, and this afternoon the prefabricated structures intended for residence were placed.

Ten such structures were set up today, and the local people hope to be able to set up the remaining 10 structures to allow the dedication ceremony to be held tomorrow. [end videotape]

U.S. Jews in Volunteer Campaign for Settlements

TA171911 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1905 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Jerusalem, 17 Jul (ITIM) — A campaign to register and enlist U.S. Jews in helping the settlements began today near the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem. The campaign is organized by a group of U.S. Jews who have set up a new organization called "Service."

The spokesman for the "La'or" [To the Light] movement, Me'ir Indor, reported that the object is to bring to Israel several hundred volunteers to be sent to settlements beyond the Green Line for short periods of time, and will be employed in studies and volunteer work in agriculture, construction, ground breaking, and archeological projects. The campaign is being carried out in cooperation with the "Eretz Yisra'el" movement in New York, the regional councils in Judaea and Samaria, and the absorption organizers for the Golan and Gaza district settlements. Mr Indor added that the joint headquarters will act in conjunction with the official bodies. Among the headquarters' advisory council members are ministers Ari'el Sharon and Yuval Ne'eman, as well as MK's Hayim Druckman and Beni Shalita. The spokesman also reported that the first volunteers will arrive in Susiyya and Yattir, in the southern part of the Hebron hills, very shortly.

Penetration Attempt Against Temple Mount Mosques

TA170820 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] The Waqf officials closed the Temple Mount mosques to visitors this morning, after an insane person attempted to penetrate the mount by car. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the man, a Yeshiva student, attempted to enter the Temple Mount via a goat path, but the car stalled on the way.

He explained to the policemen who detained him that the 15-year-old boy accompanying him in the car had been his father-in-law in a previous life.

Curfew Imposed in Ad-Duhayshah Refugee Camp

TA171030 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Jul 84 p 2

[Roni Shaqed report]

[Text] "The refugee camp has become a huge fighting arena. Hundreds of people are roaming the narrow alleys, throwing stones and plant pots, and carrying sticks and iron bars. If the Army does not arrive soon there will be a terrible bloodshed here." This is how an inhabitant of the Ad-Duhayshah refugee camp described last night's events in a telephone conversation. Hundreds of people, including women, took part in a mass fistfight between two clans last night. In the middle of the fight, one of the men pulled out a gun and severly wounded (Hasan Man'a), 32, a member of a rival clan who is known as one of the leaders of the Communist cell in the camp.

Toward midnight, when the rumor about the wounding of (Man'a) spread throughout the camp, members of his clan attacked the homes of two brothers whom they suspected of having been (Man'a's) assailants. They set the two houses and the car of one of the brothers on fire. A police patrol car which arrived on the scene last night was pelted with stones and damaged. The policemen were forced to retreat outside the camp. An ambulance was also pelted with stones and only when it was determined that the wounded man was in serious condition was it allowed to enter the camp. The wounded man was transferred to Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem.

Reinforced IDF and border police troops arrived in Ad-Duhayshah around midnight and tried to restore order, to no avail. A curfew was imposed close to midnight but youths continued to create havoc inside the camp.

It has been learned from police sources that the fight came in the wake of an attempt by the members of the Communist cell in the camp to accuse one of the inhabitants of collaborating with the authorities. Sources in the camp argue that the fight stemmed from a dispute between rival clans.

ALGERIA

Correction to Bendjedid Receives Iranian Delegation

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "President Bendjedid Receives Iranian Delegation," published in the 16 July Middle East & Africa *DAILY REPORT*, page Q 1, first paragraph, line six:

...Mohammad 'Ali Taskhiri, also met and...(correcting name)

LIBYA

Army Chief Receives Italian Land Forces Commander

LD172103 Tripoli JANA in English 1758 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Shawal, 17 July, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY — Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of Libyan Arab Armed Forces, received this afternoon Major General Umberto Capuzzo, chief of staff of Italian land forces and accompanying delegation who are currently on a visit to the Jamahiryah.

Ethiopian Foreign Minister Goshu Wolde Departs

LD172112 Tripoli JANA in English 1757 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Shawal, 17 July, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Goshu Wolde, the foreign minister of Ethiopia, left Tripoli this afternoon after a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

VOA Commentary, New Envoy to Tunis Viewed

LD171822 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Tripoli — The American Government continues to fan anti-Jamahiriyah hysteria. Accordingly it is playing a heinous role, trying to cause trouble between the Jamahiriyah and some of its Arab sisters. Toward this end it uses the most hostile methods to manifest its deeply embedded hatred against the Libyan Arab people.

In an official commentary by the Voice of America 2 days ago, Reagan's government did not conceal that its hostility toward Libya has come to be a major part of its foreign policy, and this special attention is under the charge of President Reagan himself.

In this commentary the American Government removed the mask of its heinous role of undermining the close relationship between the Jamahiriyah and its sister Tunisia, a relationship which swept out of its path all the obstacles, stemming from the deep-rooted faith of the Libyan Arab and Tunisian peoples in developing and cementing these relationships.

The commentary pointed out that the American Government relies on the new American ambassador, whose appointment to Tunis came at the direct order of President Reagan. The radio said that President Reagan chose this new American ambassador on the basis of his ability and qualifications for carrying out an effective role, and that he is very interested in this appointment because this person must play an effective role in resisting what he called terrorism in the region and be able to assist the Tunisian Government in solving its various problems.

Without any doubt, the commentary is intended to harm the close relationship between Libya and its sister Tunisia. This extreme American insolence, characteristic of all hostile American actions, is not surprising. What is surprising is that the American Government used to do these deeds in secret and now it says them unequivocally through its various radios and information media also through the statements of its various officials.

The American Government, in its rabid endeavor, seeks all excuses to display its hostile stance against Libya. Now it has gone beyond that to harm the historic ties and the [word indistinct] historic struggle relations between the two fraternal peoples as well as, with insolence, to cause estrangement between the two sister countries whose bonds of fraternity and affection cannot be broken.

Reagan's government has thus manifested that it is a patronizer of others, a matter which distinguishes its foreign policy, since it adopted in this policy an uncivilized principle unacceptable to international laws — namely the arrogant intervention in internal affairs of countries. It is now doing this publicly, but it will reap the wind.

Mubarak-Habre Joint Communique Criticized

LD171928 Tripoli JANA in English 1733 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Tripoli, Shawal 19, July 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Egyptian Government media broadcast the text of a joint communique signed by the head of the Egyptian regime, Husni Mubarak, and head of the rebel clique in Ndjamena, Hussein Habre.

The Egyptian regime recorded in this communique a hostile stand against the will of the Chadian people and did not hide enmity to the people of the Jamahiriyah and its ill attempts to undermine the growing role of the Jamahiriyah towards achieving peace and security in Chad.

The joint communique, issued at the end of a suspicious visit by the head of the rebel clique in Ndjamena, announces that the two parties are working in the same direction and that the Egyptian regime has supported without limits this rebellious clique and provides it with military and political support.

The political editor of JANA has commented on this joint communique and evil objectives that the two parties had in mind in their hostile plans by saying "attention must be drawn here to the crazy attempts exerted by the Egyptian regime to escalate war in Chad, aimed at achieving interests to the detriment of the Chadian people and their long suffering and miseries due to the continuation of the evil war. The two parties have agreed on, i.e. increase and intensity, the conflict and make use of the time factor to prolong the explosive situation in this African country in favour of the French colonial troops as well as the plans of Reagan's government which is interested on the first place in penetrating the area and carry on achieving its pre-meditated aggressive objectives against progressive countries, especially the Jamahiriyah. Senior American politicans in Reagan's government confessed that the Jamahiriyah has foiled American designs and obstructed American ambitions for control and imposition of hegemony on African states.

What interests us most is to draw special attention to the significance of the joint communique signed by the head of the Egyptian regime, Husni Mubarak, and head of the rebel clique in Ndjamena, Hussein Habre. It becomes clear that the Egyptian regime has availed itself as a tool to serve the colonial plots, because it is an opportunistic regime striving towards achieving limited regional interest. Only it found an opportunity to show publicly its enmity against the Jamahiriyah and show maliciously its evil aims, satisfying its selfish ambitions despite the fact that this regime has lost every reason to gain respect and confidence after it had presented proof and evidence of pulling off from the Nonalignment Movement and worked directly away from the African Unity Organisation even more against its principals and glorious efforts exerted on a widescale and at top levels towards achieving peace and security in Chad. [sentence as received]

Husni Mubarak regime has translated in a more obvious and blatant manner what he has been doing secretly against the Arab Libyan people, the Chadian people and the Organisation of African Unity. The joint communique between himself and the clique of mutiny in Ndjamena is a further evidence of his hostile intentions and wishes to satisfy Washington and Tel Aviv. Husni Mubarak has declared without hesitation his support for Hussein Habre's clique, contravening thus the African consensus reached in Lagos and by the Organisation of African Unity.

He further affirmed the continuity of military and economic support for that clique at the expense of the Chadian people and the loss of the Chadian lives, to enable himself to serve the interests of the American Government and those of the reactionary regimes in the region.

Indeed, the Egyptian regime is working blatantly, as the joint communique shows, towards the escalation of the war in Chad and the maintenance of the presence of the French and Zairean forces which are financed by the American Government.

Despite its misleading and treacherous way, the communique was formulated in conformity with the policy of the regime of Husni Mubarak, it is crystal clear that this regime is dodgy and dedicated to stirring trouble and bias against the legitimate Government of National Unity led by Goukouni Oueddei.

The contents of the communique uncover the real role of Husni Mubarak in the conspiracy hatched against the Arab Libyan people, the Organisation of African Unity and fundamentally against the Chadian people who rejected the treacherous clique of Hussein Habre which had proved that it was one of robbery rather than one aiming at ending the civil war. The military, political and economic assistance declared by Husni Mubarak is directed mainly to serve dubious intentions and plans dictated by a policy which takes into consideration the dedication of this regime to serve all imperialist hostile plans.

In any case, Husni Mubarak's regime will never impress us with its empty slogans as we are well aware of the malpractices of this regime, including its drive against the will of the Egyptian people and peoples of the Arab world and its declared position vis-a-vis the Chadian people will justify the condemnation which will be recorded against this regime, tied to the Zionist enemy and American imperialism.

MAURITANIA

AFP: AL BAYANE Reports Pro-Libyans Arrested

AB171514 Paris AFP in English 1423 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Rabat, July 17 (AFP) — Hundreds of members of the pro-Libyan Nasirite Movement have been arrested in Mauritania, the communist daily *AL BAYANE* reported here today.

The paper, organ of Morocco's opposition Progress and Socialism Party, said that the movement had issued an appeal to public opinion and humanitarian organisations which said that some of the movement's activists had been killed.

Last April the Mauritanian authorities arrested a score of people belonging to a group alleged to have close links with Tripoli. The arrests followed unrest among students, which Nouakchott blamed on Libya.

Observers here noted that the reported new wave of arrests followed the decision by Libya to close its people's bureau (embassy) in Nouakchott.

Muhammad al-Qasim az-Zuwayy, a special envoy of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, said here yesterday that whenever any problem arose in Mauritania the Libyan Embassy got the blame. "It is precisely to prove its good faith and neutrality towards the Nouakchott regime" that Libya had decided to close the embassy, Muhammad al-Qasim az-Zuwayy said.

The envoy left here Tuesday for an unknown destination after a five-day visit to Morocco, during which he handed King Hassan II a message from Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. He had previously visited Tunis and Algiers with the aim, he said, "of achieving Arab unity and the freedom of Palestine."

Government Denies Pro-Libyans Arrested

NC172017 Paris AFP in English 1914 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Excerpt] Nouakchott, July 17 (AFP) — The government here today denied a report in a Moroccan newspaper that it had arrested hundreds of members of the pro-Libyan Nasirite Movement in the wake of a Libyan decision to close its people's bureau (embassy) in Nouakchott. The report in the newspaper *AL BAYANE*, organ of the communist opposition Progress and Socialism Party, was denied by an Information Ministry spokesman.

The paper said that the Nasirite Movement had issued an appeal to public opinion and humanitarian organisations, saying that some of its activists had been killed. Meanwhile the Foreign Ministry here said that it had not received official notification of the embassy's closure last Sunday, though it knew of it through press reports.

Relations between the two countries were badly strained in March when the Mauritanian authorities discovered an alleged plot which was implicitly blamed on Libya. A score of people belonging to a group said to have close links with Tripoli were arrested.

Cuban Foreign Ministry Delegation Arrives for Visit

AB180935 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 18 Jul 84

[Text] A Cuban delegation led by Ricardo Perreiro (Delanco), director of North Africa, Middle East, and Asia Division [title as heard] of the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Relations, arrived in Nouakchott yesterday afternoon. It was met on arrival by Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Nagbal, ambassador-director of the Europe and America Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. The leader of the Cuban delegation told the press that the visit falls within the framework of strengthening cooperation between Cuba and Mauritania.

MOROCCO

King Receives Tunisian Envoy, Belgian Minister

LD171256 Rabat MAP in English 1204 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Rabat, July 17 (MAP) — King Hassan II of Morocco Monday received Mr Mongi Kooli, emissary of Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba. The meeting was attended by Foreign Affairs Minister Abdelouahed Belkeziz, the adviser to the King Ahmed Reda Guedira and the Tunisian ambassador to Morocco Slaheddine Abdellah.

The monarch also received visiting first deputy premier and Belgian minister of justice and institutional reforms, Mr Jean Gol.

USFP Congress Issues Final Communique

LD171417 Rabat MAP in English 1218 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Rabat, July 17 (MAP) — Morocco's recovering the Sahara is a decisive stage in the completion of her territorial integrity, underlinined the final communique of the fourth congress of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces Party (USFP), which wound up its works Sunday evening in Casablanca. The communique added that Morocco is ready for further sacrifices with a view to defending her integrity and safeguarding her values.

The communique, which was published Monday in the USFP daily *AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHITRAKI* indicated that the mastering of the military situation by the Moroccan Royal Forces in the Sahara is the practical guarantee for the respect of the national sovereignty and the borders inherited from the colonial era with respect to the Saharan provinces, which Morocco recovered in conformity with history, international law and the peoples' will. This mastering is also a guarantee against any separatist movement owing its existence to foreign support.

The social development, carried out in the Sahara, the communique indicated, is the best evidence of what can be achieved by the mobilization of existing resources, by national consensus and by popular enthusiasm in development areas.

A clear diplomatic strategy, backed by wide explanation campaigns, is likely to impose peace in the region and unveil in the same time the reality of the stand of Morocco's adversaries at the international level, and impose a lasting peace with respect to the complementary and the unity of the countries of the grand Maghreb, estimated the USFP communique.

Regarding Sebta and Mellila (two Moroccan northern [cities] still under Spain's rule) and the Jaafarines Islands, the USFP expressed to "the northern neighbour" (Spain) the determination of the Moroccan people to recover every inch of its territory and the readiness of Morocco to open these issues' dossier with the will to restore her sovereignty on the said zones and to safeguard the interests of the Spanish community living there.

As for the economic and social situation of the country, the communique underlined the necessity for an economic strategy, which takes into account the internal and external financial shortcomings.

This strategy, the communique indicated, can be efficient only in the frame of a global view consisting in the methodical breaking off with the liberal accumulation.

The public and semi-public sectors, the communique added, should also recover their initial function consisting in a driving role with respect to investment and initiative. The communique also called for an industrial restructuration [as received] so as to ensure a new policy with respect to international cooperation aiming at breaking off with the current dependency.

At the political level, the communique affirmed that no plan would reach the expected goals if it is not carried out in accordance to democratic bases, which guarantee the participation of popular masses through their political and unionist organizations.

Finally the communique underlined the importance of free and sane elections, which will create hope and mobilize the popular capacities for the edification of a new Morocco.

TUNISIA

Spanish Premier Concludes Private Visit

LD172123 Tunis International Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Felipe Gonzalez, prime minister of Spain, today ended a private visit to Tunisia during which he had talks with President

Habib Bourguiba and Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali. On leaving Tunisia the Spanish guest pointed out that his talks with senior officials in Tunisia dealt in particular with the consolidation of relations of friendship and cooperation. The prime minister of Spain thanked the Tunisian Government and people for the hospitality accorded him.

WESTERN SAHARA

SADR Communique Reports Moroccan Battle Losses

LD171349 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] The general military command of the Saharan People's Liberation Army [ALPS] has announced that over 100 Moroccan soldiers have been killed during a series of attacks and battles with the Polisario fighters.

A detailed communique issued this morning by the SADR Ministry of Information and Culture said that ALPS units carried out a number of military operations last week, resulting in the killing of 50 soldiers and a considerable number of injuries.

According to the communique, ALPS last Wednesday launched two offensives on the Moroccan positions at (Bouzenkara), southwest of Bou Craa, and at (Amgueli), south of Amgala, resulting in the deaths of 20 Moroccan soldiers. The Moroccan fortifications in these two towns were destroyed. An ammunition depot at (Bouzenkara) was also demolished.

The communique said that (?Oued Ouerg Noun) was again attacked last Friday. Fifteen Moroccan soldiers were killed and 13 were wounded. Several trenches were destroyed.

The communique said that Moroccan positions at (Umm Birate) in the area of Haouza and Aouzer were also subjected to two operations by ALPS units on Thursday and Friday.

Last Thursday, ALPS launched an attack against Moroccan positions near Amgala. Three Moroccan soldiers were killed, and the Moroccan position was destroyed. The same town was subjected to another attack, which resulted in three Moroccan soldiers' deaths.

Finally, the communique pointed out that ALPS waged two other attacks during the two days: The first against Moroccan forces at (Rous Faddrat Edjar) near Jdiria, resulting in the deaths of seven Moroccan soldiers and injuring several other soldiers. The second was against Mahbes Jneinat at the axis of Zag-Jdiriya, and resulted in the killing of four Moroccan soldiers and seven injuries.

ETHIOPIA

USSR Deputy Defense Minister Petrov Holds Talks

EA171801 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Comrade Lieutenant General Tesfaye Gebre Kidan, Provisional Military Administrative Council Standing Committee member, minister of national defense, and COPWE Executive Committee member, and Comrade V.I. Petrov, vice minister of defense, hero and marshal of the Soviet Union, today exchanged views on the friendship and military relations of the two countries.

During the talks on the Ethiopian side were high-ranking officials and on the side of the Soviet Union the delegation led by Comrade Marshal Petrov. [sentence as heard]

Comrade Marshal Petrov is presently paying an official visit to Ethiopia.

Meets With Mengistu

EA171913 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] and COPWE chairman, commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, held talks this afternoon with Comrade Marshal Petrov, CPSU Central Committee member and member of the Supreme Council [as heard], deputy minister of defense,and hero of the Soviet Union. Present during the ceremony held at the comrade chairman's COPWE office were Comrade Lieutenant General Tesfaye Gebre Kidan, PMAC Standing Committee member, minister of defense, and COPWE Executive Committee member, and Comrade Konstantin Fomichenko, USSR ambassador to Socialist Ethiopia.

Eritrean Official on Clashes With Ethiopian Forces

GF171225 Doha QNA in Arabic 0830 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 Jul (QNA) — The Eritrean Liberation Front — Popular Liberation Forces reported that 30 Ethiopian troops surrendered recently to the Eritrean Liberation Front — Popular Liberation Forces and that another 13 Ethiopian troops, many of them who had been conscripted into the Ethiopian Army, also surrendered along with their weapons to the front.

Mohamed Osman Abu Bakr, the front's representative in the Gulf whose headquarters is in Abu Dhabi, told the QNA correspondent in Abu Dhabi that a battle broke out on Sunday [15 July] between units of the Popular Army and the Ethiopian Army when the latter tried to move from the city of Karin to the nearby liberated areas. This resulted in the retreat by the Ethiopian forces to their positions after sustaining 3 dead and 4 wounded. Three were taken captives and 16 medium and light pieces of weapons were seized.

KENYA

Briefs

Foot, Mouth Disease — Kapsabet Jul 16: An outbreak of foot and mouth disease has occured in Songhor location in Tinderet Division of Nandi prompting the veterinary officer in charge of the area, Dr Julius Sotta, to impose a livestock quarantine. Disclosing this to KNA in Kapsabet today, Dr Sotta described the outbreak of the disease as severe and announced that movement of livestock or their products in or out of the location will be restricted with immediate effect. Nandi Hills location was hit by foot and mouth disease and a quarantine will come into force there. [Excerpt] [Nairobi KNA in English 1815 GMT 16 Jul 84 EA]

SOMALIA

Barre Holds Talks With UK's Rifkind

EA171752 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Excerpt] Last night President of the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] Siad Barre received at the presidential headquarters British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Malcolm Rifkind, who is currently visiting the country. The minister of state and his delegation were paying a courtesy call on the president. During their talks they discussed issues concerning the strengthening of the friendly relations and cooperation existing between the two countries.

Challe Siad expressed his gratitude for the assistance provided by Britain on development projects and refugee welfare. The president also briefed the delegation on natural resources in Somalia and on the readiness of the government and the people of Somalia to welcome anyone who will help exploit and utilize these resources.

The president also briefed the minister of state and his delegation on the reality of the situation and the crux of the problem in the Horn of Africa and pointed out the provocative aggression by the Abyssinians and their allies which aggravates security and stability in the region and frustrates efforts towards finding solutions to the long-standing problems.

Answering a question from Mr Rifkind, Challe Siad said the SDR, as has already been stated, is ready to hold talks with the Abyssinian regime in an effort to reach a sensible solution to the problems between them. But before that, Abyssinian troops and their allies must withdraw from the Somali areas which they are occupying.

The British minister of state said that it was obligatory for the Abyssinian troops to withdraw from the areas they are occupying in Somalia in order to find a solution to the Horn of Africa problem.

The president wished the delegation an enjoyable visit and asked them to convey his greetings to the British prime minister and the government.

President Receives Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister

EA171143 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 0330 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Excerpt] Mohamed Siad Barre, President of the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR], last night received at presidential headquarters the Japanese deputy foreign minister and his delegation. The delegation conveyed to the president cordial greetings from the Japanese emperor and prime minister, and thanked him for the warm welcome accorded them. Mohamed Siad Barre briefed the delegation on the natural resources with which the country is endowed, and how the Somali people are striving for development of the country. The president thanked the government and people of Japan for their assistance in development activities, and for keeping abreast of matters related to the welfare of refugees. Mohamed Siad Barre also briefed the delegation on the real nature of the problem in the Horn of Africa, and asked it to convey his greetings to the emperor, prime minister, and the people of Japan.

Presidential Envoy Departs for Saudi Arabia, Egypt

EA172052 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Summary] The commandant of the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] vanguard forces, Challe Brigadier General Abdurahman Abdi Hussein,left for Saudi Arabia and Egypt today with a special message from SDR President Challe Siad to the leaders of those countries.

TANZANIA

Nyerere Talks With DPRK Vice President, FAO Head

EA172128 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1900 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Dar es Salaam — President Nyerere today held talks withDPRK Vice President Ndugu Pak Song-chol, who is en route to Burundi for a congress of the ruling party in Burundi.

Vice President Pak, who presented a message to Mwalimu from DPRK President Ndugu Kim Il-song, also discussed with President Nyerere bilateral relations and issues related to the Nonaligned Movement.

Mwalimu also held brief talks with FAO Director General Dr Edouard Saouma on the problems of drought and the food shortage in Africa.

The talks with Ndugu Pak and Dr Saouma were held at Mwalimu's residence at Msasani in Dar es Salaam.

CHAD

Habre Willing To Step Down; Discusses Reconciliation

NC171203 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA) — Chadian President Hissein Habre said he is ready to give up his post, as he has said in the past, but to someone other than Goukouni Oueddei, if this would promote national reconciliation and safeguard Chad's territorial integrity.

This was contained in a news conference the Chadian President held in Al-Qubbah Palace at noon today.

The Chadian president also said that relations between Egypt and Chad have been strong for a long time and that he hoped these relations would be enhanced in the coming phase.

When President Habre was asked whether the reasons that led to the failure of the Chadian national reconciliation conference in Addis Ababa would lead to its failure in Brazzaville, he said: I shall not criticize the reasons that led to the Addis Ababa conference's failure. I recall the primary reasons were a lack of preparation for the conference and the attitude the Chadian opposition adopted. He added: To begin, we must accept the following facts: First, the opposition's objections and second, the complicated, interlinked problem. He pointed out that for these reasons we must not exaggerate the failure the reconciliation conference suffered in its first phase. We have profited from the past failure the first Addis Ababa reconciliation conference encountered. Now we shall work earnestly to bring about the success of the Brazzaville meeting.

On the prospects of the success for the Brazzaville reconciliation conference, Habre said: I would like to say it is too early to predict what the situation will be. The Governments of Chad and the Congo, and all those primarily interested in the conference's success must do everything necessary to achieve this success.

Replying to a question on the date of the reconciliation conference in Brazzaville and Chadian-Egyptian relations, Habre said: Regarding the convocation of the Brazzaville reconciliation conference, contacts and consultations are continuing. As I said in the past, those who seek to convene this conference are not in a hurry just to convene it, but to achieve its desired goal — namely to achieve peace, harmony, and reconciliation in Chad. The Chadian president said a date has not been fixed for the conference. Regarding Egyptian-Chadian relations, the Chadian president said: Ancient relations link Egypt and Chad. These relations still exist, and we are working to further strengthen them in the future.

President Habre pointed out that his current visit to Cairo has given him the chance to discuss with President Mubarak questions of mutual interest, African issues, and issues that concern the entire world. Asked whether he is prepared to honor his promises to step down in favor of any person other than Goukouni Oueddei, President Habre said: I would like to explain my opinion and understanding of this problem. Our position is defined on the basis of what Chad expects from its sons, on the basis of what the world expects from us, and on the basis of what those who wish to see Chad regain its national unity and independence expect from us. From this premise, I can say that the problem of individuals and of personalities will vanish when it comes to establishing Chad as an independent sovereign state.

From this premise, I say I actually announced that I will withdraw from the political arena if — please listen carefully to the word if — Chad regains its territorial integrity, independence, and national unity.

At any rate, I am not the person to define or nominate this or that side. The people have their voice.

Asked if the Chadian Government or the previous Goukouni Oueddei government has set preconditions on their participation in the national reconciliation conference in Brazzaville, Habre said the Chadian Government will not put any preconditions on the convocation of the reconciliation conference, which will involve government and opposition representatives. We believe that setting preconditions will not lead to accord among the various Chadian factions.

President Habre added: Nevertheless, we learned many lessons through our experiences in the past four reconciliation conferences. The conference must therefore be preceded by certain measures so the conference will yield the fruit we desire.

President Habre, continuing his news conference, added that a meeting before the first phase of the conference can be used to get acquainted with the opposition's position, programs, and conditions, as well as with the problems to be resolved at the conference.

Continuing, the Chadian president said consultations and contacts should be conducted during the first phase to avoid any foreign interference, which often hampered the results we desired. The second phase could be devoted to signing the agreements.

To a final question on whether he has an idea about simultaneous withdrawal of the French and Libyan forces from the Aozou Strip in Chad, the Chadian president said: I have no idea about this subject. In this regard, I would like to point out something very important, namely that we should differentiate between the two forces. Both should not be placed in the same basket. We should not equate aggressors with forces the legitimate government invited in accordance with agreements between Chad and France for Chad's defense.

Habre Returns From 2-Day Visit to Egypt

EA172148 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Summary] President Hissein Habre returned to Ndjamena this afternoon after a 48-hour friendly working visit to Cairo. During the visit, Presidents Habre and Mubarak of Egypt discussed matters relating to bilateral cooperation and agreed to revive the Egypt-Chadian joint commission which was created in February 1976.

GUNT Blames Habre for Blocking Peace Conference

AB171614 Paris AFP in French 1305 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Brussels, 17 Jul (AFP) — Goukouni Oueddei's Transitional National Union Government, GUNT, regrets that the preparatory efforts being made for the Brazzaville conference due to convene the opposing factions in Chad are being destroyed by Hissein Habre's [words indistinct].

A communique issued in Brussels on Monday by the GUNT's European representative, Issaka Ramat [name indistinct], condemns and rejects the conditions given by Hissein Habre before a conference on national reconcilitation is held. "These conditions amount to refusal to negotiate and prove that Hissein Habre would like to settle the Chadian question by force," the communique continued.

Nevertheless the GUNT has decided not to take any decision that would destroy the present calm. In addition the GUNT continues to believe that the OAU and the French Government will relentlessly pursue their efforts to bring Hissein Habre to soften his stand and negotiate unconditionally with the GUNT.

French Air Force Intercepts Nigerian Planes

LD172202 Paris International Service in French 2115 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] (?Twenty) MiG-23 fighter-bombers with Nigerian markings have been intercepted by the French Air Force in Chad. The incident occurred yesterday morning at Ndjamena but it was only announced this evening. The Nigerian aircraft were forced to land by the Mirage and Jaguar aircraft of [words indistinct] stationed in the Chadian capital. The MiG pilots are at present being held at Ndjamena's civilian airport. They stated that they had lost their way and intended to land at the Maiduguri airfield in northern Nigeria, about 270 km west of the Chadian capital. Nothing more is known at the moment. The Chadian authorities are maintaining total silence on this affair while awaiting the return of Hissein Habre from his journey to Egypt.

Planes Not Forced Down

AB180950 Paris AFP in English 0932 GMT 18 Jul 84

[Text] Lagos, July 18 (AFP) — Two Nigerian Air Force planes forced by bad weather to land at the Chadian capital of Ndjamena left there for home Tuesday, a government official said here today.

The aircraft, MiG fighters, were unable to land at Maiduguri, northeast Nigeria, on Monday.

They contacted the Chadian authorities who allowed them to touch down at Ndjamena airport, the official said.

The official denied reports that the MiG's had been forced down by planes of the French buffer force in Chad. The diversion of the fighters had the complete agreement on the Ndjamena government, he said.

(Last night Chad's Ambassador in Paris Ahmad Allam-mi also denied the reports that the aircraft had been forced down. They had been caught in a sandstorm, he said.)

Planes Still in Ndjamena

AB181155 Paris AFP in French 1120 GMT 18 Jul 84

[Text] Ndjamena, 18 July (AFP) — The "MiG-21" fighter-bombers of the Nigerian Army [as received], which landed at Ndjamena airport on Monday after losing their way in a sandstorm, according to certain reports, were still at the airport of the Chadian capital on Wednesday morning, the AFP correspondent has noted.

It will be recalled that it was officially announced in Lagos on Wednesday morning that the two aircraft returned to Nigeria on Tuesday.

It was learned from sources close to the French forces in Chad that the two Nigerian fighter planes ran short of fuel and landed at the Ndjamena civilian airport on Monday after flying over the Chari River. Before landing, they had been spotted by the "Crotale" radar of the French forces stationed in Chad, the same sources specified. The Nigerian planes, which were from northern Nigeria, were losing altitude on their approach to the airport and had not been forced to land, it was added.

"Mirage F-1" fighter planes of the French Army in Chad were flying over the Chadian capital when the two Nigerian fighter planes were spotted but they did not at any time attack the two "MiG-21" planes, the same sources specified.

The Chadian authorities have made no statement concerning this affair. Official sources have, however, stressed that the two Nigerian "MiG" planes were flying over the Lake Chad district when they were forced to land.

CONGO

Upper Voltan Delegation Signs Cooperation Agreements

AB171622 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Excerpt] Comrade Fidele Toe, Upper Voltan minister of labor, social security, and civil service, ends his working visit to Congo today. The Upper Voltan delegation's visit was marked today by the signing of a series of agreements at the Ministry of Cooperation [as heard] on commmerce, air transportation, and the creation of a joint high level cooperation commission.

Yesterday the Upper Voltan minister was received by the prime minister and head of government, Comrade Louis Sylvain Goma.

Niger-Benin Communique Issued on Situation at Border

AB171640 Niamey Domestic Service in French
1200 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Final communique issued by the joint delegation of the Niger and Benin Internal Affairs Ministries on 17 July 1984 in Dosso following tour of border towns; read by Abdul Zaromeye, Niger ambassador to Benin]

[Excerpt] Acting upon the decision made by our two heads of state — General Mathieu Kerekou, chairman of the Central Committee of the People's Revolution Party of Benin, president of the Republic, head of state, chairman of the National Executive Council, and Brigadier Seyni Kountche, chairman of the Supreme Military Council, head of state of Niger — during their meeting on 18 and 19 June in Cotonou, the minister of internal affairs and public security of Benin and the minister delegate to the Niger Ministry of Internal Affairs embarked upon a contact tour to enlighten the people living in the border towns of the two countries. The tour took place Friday 13 through Tuesday 17 July 1984.

This mission was within the framework of consolidating the traditional ties of fraternity and strengthening of the relations of good-neighborliness between the two states. Members of the joint delegation visited the following border areas: Gaho, Madekali, (Ourgindi), (Toungoutou), Karimama, Kompa and Malanville in the People's Republic of Benin; Gaya, Tara, Tanda, Ouna, (Bohou), Koasi and Doumba in the Republic of Niger. During the rallies they held in each of those areas, the two ministers conveyed the fraternal greetings of the two heads of state as well as their determination to maintain an atmosphere of mutual confidence between the two brotherly countries and to strengthen the necessary cooperation for the harmonization of relations of good-neighborliness between the people living on the border. The directives given by the two presidents and communicated to the people by the two ministers bore in particular on security and the movement of persons and goods between the two states.

Concerning security, the two presidents expressed the view that only a lasting and permanent peace can enable the people there to devote themselves entirely to the fundamental tasks of developing their (?areas). To this end, they pledged to join their efforts and do everything to ensure that the two countries do not become a place of refuge for criminals from one country or the other. After stressing the common interests and the long-standing ties of fraternity and friendship happily existing between the two peoples, the two ministers informed the people of the areas visited of the decision made by the two presidents to put an end to the various harrassments they encounter at the border posts. Thus, any Beninese or Niger citizen has the right to move freely between either of the two countries and carry a reasonable quantity of foodstuffs to maintain his family. However, they called on the people living in the border areas to be vigilant and forestall the activities of dubious traders who would want to engage in the massive and abusive smuggling of foodstuffs.

During their mission, the two ministers held working sessions with the local political and administrative authorities as well as the officials concerned, with a view to implementing correctly and immediately all the directives given by the two heads of state.

BENIN

Kerekou Addresses PRPB on Economic Situation

AB171155 Cotonou Domestic Service in French
1930 GMT 16 Jul 84

[President Mathieu Kerekou's address to the extraordinary session of the Central Committee of the People's Revolution Party of Benin, PRPB, in Cotonou on 16 July — recorded]

[Excerpts] Comrade members of the Central Committee of the People's Revolution Party of Benin, the world is facing a crisis, yes the world is facing a crisis. It was in these words that — in the name of all the hard-working people of the People's Republic of Benin, of our vanguard party the PRPB, and of our revolutionary state — I addressed our brothers on the occasion of the closing session of the fifth ECOWAS summit conference held in Cotonou on 29 May 1984. As you know, this summit meeting gave the heads of state and government of the ECOWAS member countries an opportunity to make the peoples of the West African subregion aware of the magnitude of the very serious world economic crisis. This session constitutes for us a happy opportunity to lay a very particular emphasis on the responsibilities facing our national cadres in whom our people, party, and revolutionary state repose their confidence, but who obstinately refuse to accept the national and international realities by continuing consciously or unconsciously to delight in the bad management of our state enterprises.

In view of the urgent demands resulting from the national and international situation which is critical in every respect, the Central Committee of the PRPB must adopt radical and effective measures in order to create the essential conditions for the safeguarding and consolidation of the fruits of the revolutionary struggle of the Beninese people who are the sole judge and master of their great destiny. Therefore, we the members of the Central Committee of the PRPB meeting in this extraordinary session must analyze very carefully all the dossiers submitted to us in accordance with their nature and importance. The dossiers are the following:

1. The report of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the PRPB concerning the outcome of the meeting of the National Technical Commission created by Decree No 84-05-trsgt of 9 January 1984 and charged with the task of making a critical and thorough analysis of the national economic situation and with proposing austerity measures to enable us to face the situation very effectively;

2. The proposed assistance to the state enterprises — all the economic enterprises and undertakings of our revolutionary state.

In these conditions, the tasks awaiting us are very difficult but exciting because upon their correct and diligent execution by our people, our party, and our revolutionary state depends the resolute continuation of our revolutionary national liberation struggle launched on 28 October 1972. Instead of improving and becoming clearer, the situation continues to worsen every year.

In our country, Benin, this has resulted in the continued slackening of economic activities in all sectors, the increase of the foreign debt servicing, the dwindling of the resources at the disposal of our revolutionary state, the gradual decrease in the purchasing power of our working classes, the continued impoverishment of the popular masses in our towns and rural areas, unemployment, and so on. In our country as well as in all the other Third World countries, the slackening of economic activities is due to the instability of the rates of exchange, inflation, and the high interest rates imposed on us from abroad by the financial powers. If we examine our foreign debt currency, we will note an absolute preponderance of the U.S. dollar [words indistinct] whose continued revaluation continues to worsen our debt situation. In fact, this constantly increasing revaluation creates for our revolutionary state additonal financial burdens which are heavy for our small country.

CAPE VERDE

Briefs

Envoys Present Letters — The president of the Republic, Aristides Pereira, this week received the letters of credence of three new ambassadors to our country. They are His Excellency Norman Adriano Kiondo from Tanzania, His Excellency Miguel Monzella from Argentina, and His Excellency Roop Khishna from India. [Excerpt] [Praia VOZ DI POVO in Portuguese 16 Jun 84 p 3 AB]

Briefs

New Envoy to UN — Corentino Santos, the new permanent representative of our country to the United Nations, on Tuesday presented his letters of credence to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. [Excerpt] [Praia Voz di Povo in Portuguese 30 Jun 84 p 1 AB]

GHANA

Rawlings Receives Yugoslav, U.S. Envoys

AB171845 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] The chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, has pointed out that for Ghana's political victory to be meaningful, the necessary development and economic freedom for the people have to be achieved. These, he said, could be done more through the interdependence and dependence on Ghana's and other countries' institutions. Flight Lt Rawlings was speaking when the Yugoslav ambassador to Ghana, Mr Petkovic, called on him at the castle today.

Chairman Rawlings said everthing possible will have to be done to step up the level of cooperation that has been initiated between the two countries. This would enable the people of the two countries to see a qualitative improvement and benefits of their relationship. Flight Lt Rawlings said Ghana has a lot to learn from Yugoslavia considering its achievement in the economic and manufacturing fields. Chairman Rawlings said Ghana and Yugoslavia should build on what was initiated by founding members of the Nonaligned Movement.

The Yugoslav ambassador, Mr Petkovic, said relations between the two countries have improved to such an extent that the two countries will have to strengthen them at the ministerial summit levels. On the political scene Mr Petkovic spoke about the dangers of nuclear war and the catastrophic indebtedness of Third World countries to the developing [as heard] countries. On his part, the secretary for foreign affairs, Dr Obed Asamoah, said Ghana would keep on consulting Yugoslavia to find the best way the two countries can cooperate.

Later, the U.S. amabassador in Ghana, Robert Fritts, also called on Chairman Rawlings at the castle.

GUINEA-BISSAU

New Cabinet Ministers, Secretaries Named

EA181306 Dakhar PANA in English 1830 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Bissau, 17 July (ANG/PANA) — President Joao Bernardo Vieira of Guinea-Bissau today announced a major government reshuffle. The current composition of the government of Guinea-Bissau is as follows:

Paulo Correia — first deputy president and minister of state for justice and local authorities
Iafai Camara — second deputy president and minister of state for the armed forces
Vasco Cabral — minister at the presidency for economic affairs
Carlos Correia — minister for rural development and fisheries
Fidelis Cabral de Almada — minister for education, culture, and sport
Manuel Dos Santos — minister of social affairs
Jose Pereira — minister for national security and public order
Filinto Barros — minister for natural resources and industry
Julio Semedo — minister of foreign affairs
Victor Freire Monteiro — minister of finance
Alexandre Nunes Correia — minister of public health
Mario Cabral — minister of trade and tourism
Bartolemeu Pereira — minister for economic coordination, planning, and international cooperation
Pedro Doginho Gomes — minister-governor of the national bank
Musa Djas — minister of information and telecommunications

The following secretaries of state have also been appointed:
Joaquim Furtado — for former freedom fighters [as received]
Henriqueta Gomes — for the presidency of the council of state
Martins Bireto — for justice [as received]
Luis Sanca — for fisheries
Alberto Gomes — for tourism
Pio Correia — for natural resources [as received]
Bernadino Cardost — for international cooperation [as received]
Mario Ribeiro — for transport [as received]
Manuel Barcelos — for education [as received]
Joao da Silva — for culture and sport [as received]
Angelo Regalu — for information [as received]

Details of Changes

AB171810 Paris AFP in French 1647 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Bissau, 17 Jul (AFP) — General Joao Bernardo Vieira, president of Guinea-Bissau, announced the names of new members of his government on Tuesday. This change in government has been expected for over 2 months now, since the general elections and the election of the head of state.

As expected, the post of prime minister has been dropped. The former prime minister, Victor Saude Maria, was dropped from his post last March after being accused of a coup attempt and he was not replaced in the new government. The two vice chairman of the State Council, Paulo Correira and Colonel Iafai Camara, have been given important posts in the new government where they occupy the posts of ministers of justice and the armed forces respectively.

Most members of the new government occupied ministerial posts in the former government or in preceding ones. Nevertheless the new minister of foreign affairs, Julio Semedo, member of the PAIGC (single party) Central Committee has never belonged to any government. He succeeds Fidelis Cabral de Almada who becomes minister of education, a post that is apparently less taxing for the minister whose state of health is rather unsatisfactory.

One may note that the former State Secretariat for Planning and Cooperation headed by Bartolomeu Simoes Pereira, has been raised to the level of a ministry, thereby strengthening the role of its head in the framework of Guinea-Bissau's economic recovery. Three former ministers, Joseph Turpin (Commerce), Jose Cruz Pinto (Internal Administration) and Avito da Silva (Education), who were dismissed from the PAIGC last May for supporting Saude Maria's activities, have left the government. However, Victor Freire Monteiro, who was dismissed from the party's Central Committee last month, maintains his post as minister of finance. Observers also note that most of the secretaries of state are young PAIGC cadres who are occupying government posts for the first time.

It should be noted that in the new government team, made up of 15 ministries and five secretaries of state, only one man retains his previous office: Iafai Camara, the armed forces minister.

A source at the Presidency of the Council of State later said: Theaim of this reshuffle is to decentralize power and give the executive greater technical efficiency.

Further on Cabinet Shakeup

LD180307 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 2230 GMT 18 Jul 84

[Excerpts] Although he was removed from the Central Committee of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC), Victor Freire Monteiro retains the finance portfolio, while Vasco Cabral, the party Central Committee's permanent secretary and secretary of the Council of State, who had left the government in May 1982 is now appointed minister for economic affairs in the office of the president.

Although awaited for nearly 2 months a result of the events leading up to the dismissal of Victor Saude Maria as prime minister, the composition of the new government did take Bissau's political circles by surprise insofar as its profound restructuring and the inclusion of such names as, for example, Vasco Cabral.

Vieira Comments on Ties With Portugal, Trip to Brazil

PM180747 Lisbon DIARIO DE NOTICIAS in Portuguese 16 Jul 84 p 4

[Unattributed report: "'Ball' of Lisbon-Bissau Cooperation Is Now in Portuguese Court"]

[Text] According to Guinean President Joao Bernardo Vieira, the development of cooperation between Lisbon and Bissau now depends on Portugal's responses. "The ball is in the Portuguese court," the Guinean leader remarked yesterday, when taking stock for journalists in his country's capital of the recent journey to Brazil and Portugal.

Bernardo Vieira was referring with that image of the "ball" to the idea put forward by himself concerning the creation of an escudo area, and he stated that he is now awaiting a Portuguese response which will make it possible to develop the matter.

"I sought to expedite the implementation of the agreements signed during my official visit in June, and especially to urge the Portuguese authorities to encourage their businessmen to come and see what interests them on the spot," President Vieira explained in connection with the meetings which he had with Ramalho Eanes and Mario Soares. This statement follows another, by Guinean Secretary of State for Planning and International Cooperation Bartolomeu Pereira, who stated a few days ago, also in Lisbon, that Bissau had just drawn up a new code for foreign investment which will meet the anxieties of Portuguese people intested in investing in Guinea.

Bartolomeu Pereira described the new code as being more open than the previous code, specifically in the Guinean economy's priority sectors.

But President Vieira confirmed yestereay that the country's new government will be sworn in within a few days. "Everything was ready before my departure for Brazil, but the Council of State chairman's presence was deemed essential in order to give the swearing-in ceremony the solemnity and commitment which it should express within the framework of national life," Vieira explained.

With regard to the characteristics of the new Bissau executive, which African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde [PAIGC] sources themselves claim are more technical than political, Bernardo Vieira confined himself to observing that "the answers will be given in a few days' time," but added that "Guinea-Bissau Governments have never been formed exclusively on a partisan basis or on the basis of the most prominent PAIGC leaders."

Bernardo Vieira also said that he had raised with Mario Soares the problems concerning the Guinean population resident in Portugal, and that the Lisbon government had promised him that it would review the matter.

With regard to his official 9-day visit to Brazil at the invitation of President Joao Figueiredo, Bernardo Vieira said that it had been "very positive" and cited the signing of declarations of intent concerning the development of cooperation in the fields of energy, mining, and technological aid.

A private joint enterprise is about to be formed by Guinea-Bissau and Brazil to carry out a sugar and alcohol project that will receive financial aid from Brazil reckoned to total 1.12 million contos.

Bernardo Vieira revealed that representatives of his country and Brazil will be meeting soon to examine details of the development of trade.

It is worth noting that Guinea-Bissau's principal donor countries are Sweden, the Netherlands, and the United States, and that Portugal is currently working with those countries on plans for three-way cooperation with Guinea-Bissau, beyond the provisions of the UN Development Program.

IVORY COAST

Air Traffic Agreement Signed With Poland

AB172009 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 17 Jul 84 p 3

[Text] Yesterday it was the turn of Brazil and now it is Poland's turn to sign an air agreement with Ivory Coast. Very soon, businessmen and tourists from the two countries will be able to travel from Abidjan to Warsaw (Poland's capital city) without passing through the West or the East. The Air Afrique airline (for Ivory Coast) and the Lot airline (for Poland) can now cross paths in the sky upon the implementation of this agreement signed last Friday by the two parties. Ange Francois Barry Battesti, Ivorian minister of public works, construction and posts and telecommunications, and General Josef Sobieraj, director [as published] of the Polish Central Civil Aviation Administration, are the two officials who initialed this historic agreement. The signing ceremony took place in the presence of Ambassador Theodore De Mel who, from his residence and chancery in Bonn (Germany), represented our country in Poland.

Buffalo hunting is therefore open for those who, unable to make it to Indian America, have a strong leaning for a sporting activity like hunting. Yes, Poland is also a country of hunting.

Thus, after the Socialist Republic of Romania in 1979, Poland has now come to widen relations between Ivory Coast and the Eastern bloc, through the signing of this document. The agreement will pave the way for air link which will contribute to physically bringing together Ivorian and Poles. It is an exchange that will really strengthen their relations, following the maiden flight which will soon take place.

LIBERIA

Briefs

New Ambassador From Mali — Head of state Commander in Chief Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe today reaffirmed Liberia's commitment to the promotion of diplomatic ties with all peace-loving nations of the world. Head of state Doe said that this was necessary for the advancement of international peace, understanding, and cooperation. The Liberian leader was speaking at the executive mansion today when the new Malian ambassador to Liberia, Djibril Demba Diallo, presented his letters of credence. Ambassador Diallo is also accredited to the Republics of Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau, and Guinea with residence in Conakry, Guinea. [Excerpt][Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 17 Jul 84 AB]

MALI

President Traore Receives Cameroonian Envoy

AB172100 Bamako Domestic Service in French 2015 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Excerpt] General Moussa Traore, secretary general of the Democratic Union of Malian People and president of the Republic, received a special envoy of the Cameroonian president, Paul Biya, at 1400 today. The Cameroonian minister of state in charge of planning and territorial administration, Youssoufa Daouda, delivered a message of brotherliness and esteem from President Paul Biya to President Moussa Traore. The strengthening of cooperation between Mali and Cameroon was discussed at this meeting.

NIGERIA

Buhari Orders Changes in Oil Industry

AB171529 Paris AFP in English 1456 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Lagos, July 17 (AFP) — Nigerian head of state Major-General Muhammadu Buhari said Nigeria was suffering today because of previous mismanagement of the country's vital oil industry, and has charged a reconstituted board of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to reorganise the corporation to avoid pitfalls.

At the inauguration Monday of the seven-man board headed by Petroleum and Energy Minister Tam David-West, Gen Buhari recalled Nigeria's economic shock in the last four years when its oil production dropped from some two million barrels a day to the present level of 1.3 MBD authorized by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

He said that petroleum accounted for about 95 per cent of Nigeria's external earnings and at least 85 per cent of domestic revenue, adding that "with good management Nigeria could have kept the economy going and would not have had to suffer as it now does."

Gen Buhari, who served as Federal Oil Commissioner under the last military regime, charged the board members to prepare themselves for "pressures" from interest groups because of the vital nature of their assignments.

The board is also expected to step up work on Nigeria's petrochemical plants as well as liquefied natural gas, two projects where delay has also been blamed on the "misplaced priorities" of the defunct civilian administration.

Replying, Mr David-West, who won a slight increase in Nigeria's production quota at the recent OPEC meeting in Geneva (up 100,000 B/D in August and 150,000 in Sept), pledged the new NNPC board would live up to expectations.

In another development, Gen Buhari told the News-Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in an interview that Nigeria would not use its size advantage to unduly influence the affairs of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Nigeria is the most populous member of the 16 country community, but Gen Buhari said, "we must not be seen as lording it over other member-states, but as equal partners with the other sovereign nations taking part in a joint experiment for the mutual benefit of all" he said.

Nigeria pays about 39 per cent of contributions to the annual budget of ECOWAS, and Gen Buhari disclosed that it had started work on its own portion of an ECOWAS telecommunications project to link all member countries' capitals.

Meanwhile, addressing an ECOWAS ministerial committee meeting [words indistinct] Michael Adigun said it might be difficult to tackle issues related with integration within the sub-region if ECOWAS failed to resolve the problem of "derogation" — harmonisation of economic programmes. "[If it should] not be solved, the community is yet to take off in real terms" he said.

He described trade liberalisation as the "pivot" of any economic community, and stressed that the free movement of people in the community would be matched by free movement of goods across borders of ECOWaS members.

The ministerial meeting comes ahead of an ECOWAS Council of Ministers conference beginning in Lagos July 20.

Lagos on OPEC Raising of Nigerian Production Quota

AB171210 Lagos International Service in English
0930 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Viewpoint]

[Text] Nigeria has been granted a slight increase in her oil production output by OPEC. Viewpoint sees the development as a recognition of Nigeria's loyalty to OPEC and a boost to the solidarity of the organization. News of the agreement by the Ministerial Council of OPEC to approve an increase in Nigeria's oil production quota must have come as a real shock to those nations which have been asking to destabilize the organization. On the eve of the Ministerial Council meeting held in Vienna, some shrewder experts in some industrialized countries of the West had predicted a serious split in the OPEC membership on this issue of production increase. Surely they must be disappointed by the consensus of the council.

The additional production output of 100,000 barrels per day in August and 150,000 barrels per day in September approved for Nigeria falls short of the country's request for 300,000 barrels per day increase. Nevertheless, the authorization to raise production level is significant. It will fetch Nigeria additional income of (?$3.1 million) per day in August and $4.25 million per day in September.

Although Nigeria is rated as OPEC's eighth highest producer, she has the second largest population among the cartel's members. This and the fact that she depends on oil for more than 90 percent of her revenue makes her the weakest link in the organization. The introduction of the quota arrangement by OPEC in response to the oil glut of the late 70's limited Nigeria to the production of 1.3 million barrels per day. This has had serious and unfavorable effects on the volume of Nigeria's foreign exchange earnings, but she has remained steadfast in her loyalty to OPEC. By raising her production quota therefore, the OPEC Ministerial Council has rewarded Nigeria for her solid commitment to the cause of the organization.

The decision will also serve to reassure Nigeria's creditors, further strengthen her commitment to the organization, and justify the decision by her present military leaders to remain in OPEC despite widespread doubts about the usefulness of her continued membership of the organization. OPEC member states have in different ways been demonstrating solidarity among themselves to sustain their cartel. They have further boosted their solidarity and dismayed those who wish the organization bad by increasing the production quota for Nigeria, which needs such a concession to enable her to resist attempts by detractors to destabilize the cartel.

Expelled Diplomat Returns From Britain

AB171954 Lagos International Service in English
1630 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] One of the officers of the Nigerian High Commission in London, Mr Okon Edet, who were ordered to leave the country by the British Government, returned to Lagos today. Mr Edet, a counsellor at the high commission, and Mr Peter Oyedele, an attache, were given 7 days within which to leave Britain for their alleged role in the kidnap attempt on fugutive Umaru Dikko. Britain had sought diplomatic immunity to be (?raised) on the two officers to enable police to interrogate them on the Dikko affair. The request was, however, turned down by the Nigerian high commissioner, Major General Halidu Hannaniya, who is already in Lagos for consultations.

Papers Comment on 'Diplomatic Crisis' With Britain

AB181035 Lagos International Service in English
0830 GMT 18 Jul 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Two papers, the *NATIONAL CONCORD* and the *GUARDIAN* discuss the diplomatic crisis between Nigeria and Britain over the kidnap attempt of fugitive Umaro Dikko. The *CONCORD* in its comment observes that the Federal Government has been a steadfast in its position, calm in its pronouncements, and has demonstrated a good measure of maturity in its responses to the British Government. The paper, however, advises the Federal Government to follow up its extradition request for Umaru Dikko as well as file similar requests for other fugitives.

The *CONCORD* and the *GUARDIAN* condemn the British Government for not restraining the fugitives from using Britain as a platform for plotting subversive activities against Nigeria. The *GUARDIAN*, while urging Nigeria to exercise restraint, expresses the hope that the Federal Government will come out with an imaginative solution to the political impasse.

Archbishop Runcie Opens Anglican Council Meeting

AB171616 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] The plenary session of the sixth Anglican Consultative Council meeting opened today at Badagry, Lagos. It was formally declared open by the Archibishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Robert Runcie, who told the delegates to ensure that there was affection among members of the church. In his address, the secretary general of the council, the Reverend Canon Samuel Vakuli, announced that over 50 issues would be discussed at the meeting. Among them are marriage and the family. Others are ecumenical relations, the ministry, and Christianity.

The Anglican Consultative Council, which is one element of the inter-Anglican organization, has the responsibility for communication, mission, interchurch relations, and special studies. About 84 delegates are attending the meeting, which is expected to last 12 days.

Runcie Sermon to Delegates Cited

AB181242 Lagos NAN in English 1225 GMT 18 Jul 84

[Text] Lagos, July 18 (NAN) — The archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev Robert Runcie, said in Lagos yesterday that Christians had a special responsibility in today's world to help transform "destructive tension into creative tension".

In a special sermon at a service at Christ Church Cathedral, Lagos for delegates to the current sixth meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council, Archbishop Runcie said that Christians should have hope and not yield to hopelessness. They should "build and cross bridges rather than sink in swampy water", he declared.

Archbishop Runcie noted that people were easily driven apart today because the destructive forces at work were as strong as ever. According to him, there will always be tension in the world because "tension is necessary for creation". He said that destructive tension would divide men because of race, class, tribe or politics. He said that though people in different parts of the world were calling on the church to get out of politics, it was pertinent to note that the lives of men and women were shaped and at times destroyed by politics.

"As pilgrims with a responsibility to God for his creation, we are deeply concerned for all the affairs of men and women", he said. He pointed out that the church must be involved in situations where people were discriminated against because of their race.

SENEGAL

Diouf Appoints New Chief of Defense Staff

AB180750 Dakar Domestic Service in French
2000 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Excerpt] The ministerial council met this morning under the chairmanship of the head of state. In his address, the president informed the council of the decisions he made concerning the appointment of officers to some high posts in the national Armed Forces and at the grand chancellery of the Order of the Lion.

To this effect, Major General Josephe Tavares de Souza, the current secretary general of the Nonaggression and Defense Aid Agreement between the Economic Community of West Africa and Togo, ANAD, has been appointed the chief of defense staff of the Armed Forces in the place of General Iddrissa Fall who has been appointed to higher diplomatic functions. Lieutenant General Ahmed Fall, the former personal chief of staff of the president of the Republic and the inspector general of the Armed Forces, has been appointed the grand chancellor of the National Order of the Lion in the place of Colonel Amadou Lamine N'diaye who has reached retirement age. Major General Moumoudou Mansour Seck, formerly the deputy chief of staff of the Armed Forces, has been appointed the personal chief of staff of the president of the Republic in the place of Lt Gen Ahmed Fall who has been appointed to undertake other duties.

Major General (Koumbadou Siao), formerly the military attache at the Senegalese Embassy in Bonn, has been appointed the inspector general of the Armed Forces at the presidency of the Republic in the place of Lt Gen Ahmed Fall, who has been assigned other duties.

'No Intention' To Reestablish Ties With Israel

AB180917 Dakar Domestic Service in French
2200 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers met this morning under the chairmanship of the head of state. The head of state stressed Senegal's attachment to the cooperation between the Arab and African countries [words indistinct]. The government's spokesman [Information Minister Djibo Ka] remarked that as far as relations between African countries and the State of Israel are concerned, the often reaffirmed Senegalese Government position has not changed, adding that Senegal has no intention at all to reestablish any kind of relations with Israel.

UPPER VOLTA

Compulsory 'People's National Service' Begun

AB171025 Kinshasa AZAP in French 0935 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Kinshasa, 17 Jul (AZAP) — Military service has been abolished in Upper Volta and replaced with a people's national service, Radio France International monitored in Kinshasa announced on Monday.

All Upper Voltans, both men and women aged between 20 and 35 years, should complete the 12-month national service. The first 3 months will be devoted to military training. Servicemen will receive a monthly allowance of 1,500 CFA francs throughout the service period, the French radio station added.

Aid Agreement Signed With Canada

AB171450 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] An aid agreement was signed between Upper Volta and Canada this morning at the Ministry of Equipment and Communication. The agreement, which covers Canada's participation in the construction of the (Kompienga) hydroelectric dam, amounts to 15 million Canadian dollars, that is about 6 billion CFA francs. Upper Volta was represented by Comrades Phillipe Ouedraogo, minister of equipment; Sow Mahama, an official of the Ministry of Equipment, and Louis Dominique Ouedraogo; secretary general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while Canada was represented by Mrs Odette (Mante), Canadian consul in Ouagadougou.

ANGOLA

ANGOP Commentary Marks OAU Recognition of MPLA

MB171917 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
1200 GMT 17 Jul 84

[ANGOP commentary]

[Text] On 17 July 1968, the MPLA, the revolutionary vanguard of the Angolan people, was recognized by the OAU as the liberation movement of Angola. In the history of the Angolan people there are past events which need to be remembered because of the impact they have always had on the development and enrichment of the struggle for national liberation.

When we recall the date which is being marked today, we must underline the coherent link which ensured that it took place. It was not easy work to have the OAU recognize the MPLA. It was the direct result of the victories attained on the political and military, as well as diplomatic, fronts, thanks to the firmness and willpower shown by the leaders, military men, and guerrillas of the MPLA. Powerful international forces opposed the victorious advance of that struggle by using various tools in an intensive diplomatic offensive against this recognition which is now being marked. However, taking into account Angola's geographical situation, it was imperative that the struggle of the vanguard Angolan MPLA should be part of the general struggle for total decolonization of the African Continent, and, at the diplomatic level, that could only be possible through the recognition of the MPLA by the OAU. This objective was a decisive step forward in the continuation of the struggle for national liberation, until the final victory was achieved through the combination of efforts by the leaders and fighters of our vanguard organization. This dealt a heavy blow to the imperialist designs.

The active process of the liberation struggle against Portuguese colonialism and the subsequent policy of the masses of the MPLA found support within the OAU and overcame the lack of comprehension in some African capitals (?serving) the neocolonial interests of international capitalism. Increased understanding of the Angolan people's struggle for their national liberation in the international arena then became a reality. After 17 July 1968, the fact had been demonstrated before Africa and the whole world that the MPLA was the only liberation movement faithfully dedicated to the cause of defending the inalienable rights of the Angolan people and their true sovereignty.

As we review the liberating action of the past and the history of international relations, we have learned lessons which may often be applied to the conditions of our current struggle because they contribute toward an ever more active state of awareness as we face the crucial stage of national reconstruction. International reaction has never stopped glancing conspiratorily at our country, nor opposing the struggle for the realization of the just desires of the Angolan people, thus trying to bar the Angolan people's path toward progress and the victorious development of their struggle.

International reaction has always shown these same tendencies, while the characteristics of their action has differed only on account of the methods which are used. However, thanks to a general mobilization and a rigorous participation of all forces congregated around the MPLA, all obstacles were overcome in the past until the proclamation of independence. This example of abnegation, willpower, and total commitment to the struggle which has characterized the vigorous action of thousands of combatants and militants of the MPLA should constitute a stimulus to the Angolan people on all fronts.

LESOTHO

Allegiance of BDA in Elections Questioned

MB171845 Maseru Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Recently Radio Lesotho issued a comprehensive expose on the legal framework for the forthcoming general elections. Radio Lesotho drew the attention of the public to the provisions of the Electoral Act of 1968 and the Parliament Act of 1983, and dealt inter alia with those sections in the law on disqualification of persons from the legislative process. Beside those provisions affecting persons who are adjudged or declared to be of unsound mind, the act debars from the legislative process persons who compromise the sovereignty of this Kingdom by actions which demonstrate loyalty to a foreign power state.

It is perhaps a fact that is unpalatable to an overwhelming majority of the nation that there are foreign interests which are determined to influence — if not to actually dictate — the outcome of the forthcoming elections. The nation cannot, and must not, wish this reality away. To do so would be to forfeit its sovereign right to chart its own political destiny. The duty of the nation is to jealously safeguard that sovereign right.

Radio Lesotho recently reported the registration under the Societies Act of the Basotho Democratic Alliance [BDA]. According to reports, the BDA is making preparations to participate in the forthcoming general elections. This, in itself, is a welcome development, as government declared itself ready to provide the nation with an opportunity for the nation to choose its own political leaders and government. What is of interest about the BDA are the circumstances surrounding its formation, and the appearance it gives of being a trojan horse.

There have been various reports about who the alliance actually represents. The personalities in the leadership of the alliance are interesting in their own right. They represent a mixture of stalwarts of the Basotho National Party, the Basotholand Congress Party, and independents. Referring to this alliance, Mr Sparks said in the *STAR* of 11 April: It has recently been revealed that senior members of the South African Government involved themselves in the conspiracy to help form a political movement in another country, Lesotho, with a view to unseating the government of that country.

The fact of the matter is that the truth is out about the BDA, where it was formed, and by whom. For the nation remains the responsibility [as heard] to reach the inescapable conclusion about whether these gentlemen and the alliance they lead has any legitimate right to participate in the legislative process according to the Parliament Act of 1983. At a meeting recently held in Maseru, the BDA called on all opposition parties to join hands in coming general elections so as to unseat the prime minister, Right Honorable Dr Leabua Jonathan. This sentiment was expressed by Messrs C.D. Molapo, Phuka Chaolane, and (Ntai Ledimo).

The Basotho National Party [BNP] is the nation, and the nation is the BNP. Their wishful thinking is tantamount to saying that they can destroy all development projects in the country overnight, and build theirs the following day.

MOZAMBIQUE

President Machel Holding Talks in PRC

For XINHUA reportage of the visit by President Samora Machel to the PRC, including his talks with PRC President Li Xiannian, see the Middle East and Africa section of the 18 July China DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Italy To Aid in Rebulding Rail Line to Beira

MB171745 Maputo in English to Southern Africa
1100 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] One of Mozambique's most important railroads is to be rehabilitated under the terms of a contract between the Mozambican Government and an Italian corporation. The line connects the coal fields at Moatize in the northwest of the country with the Indian Ocean port of Beira, but poor condition of the line has been holding up coal exports through the port. The rehabilitation will also help landlocked Malawi and Zambia, whose own rail networks are linked to the Beira-Moatize line. The Italian Government is to provide $18.5 million to finance the work, which is to begin as soon as possible and will take about 3 and 1/2 years to complete.

The contract for rehabilitation was signed in Maputo yesterday with the Italian Institute for Industrial Reconstruction, a public holding corporation which heads Italy's largest conglomeration of companies. The president of the corporation, (Romano Prodi), is currently on a visit to Mozambique.

Minister Arrives in Britain for SADCC Meeting

MB172000 Maputo in English to Southern Africa
1800 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] Mozambican Minister Alcantara Santos has began a 5-day official visit to Britain. The minister of ports, railroads, and shipping will discuss British aid projects and developments in transportation. Mr Santos' main reason for visiting London is to attend a meeting of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference [SADCC] at the Commonwealth Institute in London. He will address SADCC delegates on transport and communications on Thursday. Mr Santos has already had discussions on transportation aid projects in Mozambique with British officials. In the port of Liverpool, Mr Santos discussed training opportunities in navigation. After the SADCC conference on Friday, Mr Santos will meet with officials of the International Maritime Organization.

Vigilance Urged Against Enemy Action in Gaza

MB180942 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
0800 GMT 18 Jul 84

[Text] Brigades from the provincial headquarters of the vigilance groups in Gaza worked last weekend at the (Cocamissava) communal ward in the city of Xai-Xai. They chaired meetings on the need of the residents to step up vigilance to face enemy action. During the meetings the brigades also spoke of the need for the residents to actively participate in agricultural production.

NAMIBIA

SWANU Rejects Role in Interim Government

MB181003 Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER
in English 13 Jul 84 p 3

[By Political Reporter]

[Text] SWANU [South-West Africa National Union] would "never" take part in any "interim government," the leader of SWANU, Mr Moses Katjiuongua, told the political committee of the Multiparty Conference (MPC), it was revealed today.

Mr Katjiuongua, who has been facing flak from within his own party ranks for participation in the MPC, made this statement when he addressed the MPC on Tuesday.

"We are not looking for a Namibia that will be independent two or 20 times. We are looking for a permanent solution.

"That independence, as the MPC said on more than one occasion, must be nationally accepted and internationally recognised.

"No UDI," said Mr Katjiuongua.

The SWANU leader maintained that "independence" which was not nationally accepted and internationally recognised was "totally meaningless."

He warned that if there were parties in the MPC that would like to have an interim government now they should look for it "without our company."

"I hope they will fail to find such a 'government'," Mr Katjiuongua said.

While SWANU did not find the concept of a "government of national unity" injurious in itself, it should only be considered as a measure to avert a national political catastrophy and within the context of an independent Namibia.

"But never, never as an interim government," Mr Katjioungua said.

Mr Katijiuongua also said his party was against the linkage of a Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola to independence for Namibia.

"SWANU is against linkage for two reasons.

"First the Cubans were in Angola when South Africa and the USA formulated and endorsed Resolution 435."

The second was that the people of Namibia had never been consulted whether they accepted linkage.

Mr Katjiuongua recommended that both Angola and SA should be required to make undertakings to the UN Security Council that they would under no circumstances act against an independent Namibia.

Conversely, the Namibian political parties could make similar undertakings.

"To reject linkage is not to say that the presence of Cuban forces in Angola is or will remain irrelevant to future political developments in Namibia," Mr Katjiuongua said.

Editorial: SWAPO Acts Require RSA Retaliation

MB180951 Windhoek DIE SUIDWESTER in Afrikaans 6 Jul 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Angolan Stories"]

[Text] Angola's denial that part of its Armed Forces are unwilling to confront SWAPO terrorists in the south of the country is welcome but not convincing.

It is welcome because it reveals a certain attitude at least from official quarters to honor the agreement reached in Lusaka in February, but it is not convincing because the facts available testify that SWAPO is still very active in the south of Angola, an area it uses as a springboard for terrorist attacks in the north of South-West Africa. The recent bomb attacks indicate this.

It is thus not enough to deny and promise action. Angola must act effectively and as long as it does not do this, it will be no use complaining that South African security forces are still active in the south of Angola. As long as SWAPO continues to use Angola as a springboard to carry out acts of terror in Ovambo it will be necessary for the security forces to retaliate.

It was clear from the beginning of the Lusaka Agreement that SWAPO is doing everything in its power to use this situation to continue to intensify its so-called military action. This is exactly what it will do if there is ever any talk of implementing Resolution 435 and withdrawing South African security forces to bases in South-West Africa.

A report from its London office that it has "eliminated" three so-called "squealers" shows that SWAPO's actions are not military but blatant terrorism. In plain language, this means that three of its opponents have been murdered by its armed bandits.

The security forces have the continued task of containing terrorism, and if it is necessary to do it in southern Angola it will simply be done, with or without Angola's cooperation.

SOUTH AFRICA

Government Denies Summit Planned With Angola

MB181111 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1043 GMT 18 Jul 84

[Text] Pretoria, July 18, SAPA — The South African Government has denied reports that a summit meeting is being arranged between the South African prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, and Angola's President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

The Portuguese weekly *"AFRICA JORNAL"* said today a summit meeting between the two Southern African leaders was "being arranged" and could take place soon. The newspaper, described as being usually well-informed, said the meeting would be held as soon as both sides agreed on raising the level of peace discussions between them.

The object of the summit would be to resolve outstanding problems such as completion of the withdrawal of South African troops from southern Angola under last February's Lusaka agreement and the independence process of SWA/Namibia, the newspaper, which quoted no sources, said. It added that an Angolan-South Africa summit nearly materialised three weeks ago when Mr Dos Santos visited Lusaka, suggesting that only a last-minute hitch had prevented the presence of Mr Botha in the Zambian capital.

Foreign affairs officials in Pretoria today denied the report, dismissing it as "wild speculation."

"There is no truth in the report. In any event, the South African Government does not react to such wild speculation in the media," a foreign affairs spokesman said.

Defense Force Denies AIM Reports of MNR Clashes

MB171500 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1420 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text) Pretoria, July 17, SAPA — A South African Defence Force spokesman today flatly denied reports that South African forces equipped with helicopters had been involved in a battle against rebels of the Mozambique Resistance Movement [MNR] in the eastern Transvaal.

The official Mozambique news agency, AIM, which made the claim, said military personnel and residents in the border town of Resano Garcia had heard the fighting which took place inside South Africa.

"It was presumed the clashes were between the South African Defence Force and gangs of the MNR," AIM was quoted today as saying. "The SA Defence Force categorically denies allegations that South African forces equipped with helicopters were involved in a battle against MNR, or for that matter any other force, in the eastern Transvaal," a Defence Force spokesman said in Pretoria today.

Police Deny AIM Reports

MB171727 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1610 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Excerpt] Pretoria, July 17, SAPA — South African police said in Pretoria tonight they knew nothing about five South African technicians being abducted last week by the Mozambique National Resistance [MNR] movement.

Earlier today police also said they had no knowledge about another report that a South African farmer was killed by the MNR, while the South African Defence Force denied that South African forces equipped with helicopters had been involved in a battle with MNR rebels in the eastern Transvaal. The reports all emanated today from the Mozambique national news agency, AIM.

According to one report, the South African technicians' mini-bus was ambushed by MNR rebels on the main Komatipoort-Maputo road last Tuesday. The men, who were on their way to help repair cranes in the Maputo Harbour, were reportedly marched through the bush for four hours and then released unharmed.

A spokesman for the Police Public Relations Directorate in Pretoria, Lieutenant-Colonel Vic Haynes, said police had no information about the alleged abduction. But a spokesman for a South African construction company, whom some of the technicians apparently work for, Mr Bert Badenhorst, was quoted today as saying five workers were captured at what initially appeared to be a Frelimo roadblock.

The MNR fighters manning the roadblock took their equipment and other property and tried to set fire to the vehicle. The men were eventually freed on condition they let the world know the MNR "was alive and well,"

AIM was also quoted as saying a South African farmer killed last month was murdered by MNR gunmen, but Colonel Haynes said police were investigating only one murder involving a white farmer in the eastern Transvaal, that of Mr Johannes Davel, 39, of the farm Eindelik. "As far as we are concerned, Mr Davel was killed during an attempted robbery which resulted in a murder," Colonel Haynes said.

Shift in ANC 'Propaganda' Themes Noted

MB171700 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Station commentary: "The Shift in ANC Propaganda"]

[Text] In the wake of its bases being removed from southern Africa in terms of the security agreements between South Africa and neighboring states, the ANC is trying to create the impression that its international position in South Africa will carry it through. Through its propaganda machine in Western capitals, it is playing down the one strength it had in the past — bases in neighboring states from which it was able to launch its terrorist deeds in South Africa.

In a radio interview in London, an ANC spokesman this week went as far as to say that the organization has no military bases in southern African states. It received facilities and support from these states, the spokesman said, but the organization was not dependent on outside assistance. In other words, the ANC inside South Africa is strong enough to go it alone.

This is in direct contradiction with the facts. In more than 20 years of external propaganda and internal effort, the organization has made no significant impact on either foreign public opinion or the internal order of South Africa. Without funding from leftist organizations in the West and arms and training facilities from the Soviet Union and Eastern bloc countries, there would be no such thing as the ANC today.

From an internal point of view the ANC has minimal support. With the exception of a handful of radicals, the support it might have had has been negated by the acts of terror it has perpetrated.

What has not gone unnoticed by the black communities in South Africa is that most of the victims of terrorist action in the country have been black. The killing and maiming of innocent civilians has been condemned by all responsible black leaders in South Africa.

The truth of the situation is that the ANC is in a dilemma. It received its communist and leftist backing on the strength of its being able to establish bases in southern African states, because it had no bases inside South Africa. Now that its external bases have been removed, it claims to have an infrastructure inside South Africa. If it is on this fabrication that it hopes to retain its external support, the total breakdown of the ANC is closer than it likes to admit.

ZAMBIA

Chuula Meets With Iraqi Ambassador

MB180708 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Jul 84

[Text] Zambia looks forward to an early settlement of the Iraq-Iran war. Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Fitzpatrick [as heard]Chuula said this in Lusaka yesterday when he proposed a toast to mark the Iraq 17 July Revolution which fell yesterday.

Mr Chuula, who is also power, transport, and communications minister, said he hoped the occasion served to better the already good understanding between the parties of the two countries and peoples.

Earlier Iraqi Ambassador to Zambia ('Abd al-Obaydi) also proposed a toast to the ever growing relationship between Zambia and Iraq. Mr (al-Obaydi) wished President Kaunda good health so that he can continue leading the country to greater heights.

Foreign Minister Cites Need for Arms Control

MB180723 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 18 Jul 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Lameck Goma has said the involvement of the Third World countries in disarmament talks reflect the reality that the majority of wars fought since World War II were fought in their territories.

Professor Goma said this in London on his way back to Lusaka from Uppland, Sweden, where he attended an international meeting on dismarmament. The minister said the use of chemicalweapons and the deployment of certain armaments in space posed a great danger to the world and added that there was need to control the use of such weapons by the West and the East.

Minister Tours New 500 KW Transmitter Site

MB171948 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 17 Jul 84

[Text] The minister of information and broadcasting services, Mr Cosmas Chibanda, has expressed satisfaction at the groundwork for the installation of a 500-kilowatt mediumwave transmitter for the Zambia Broadcasting Services [ZBS]. The Minister, who this morning toured the (Twin Farms) transmitters in the company of ZBS acting director general, Rev Roger Ngombe, and other senior ministry officials, was told work is expected to be completed by December this year.

Once operational, it is expected that reception will improve throughout the country, especially at night. Later, Rev Ngombe said 2 engineers and 4 technicians have just completed a 3-month course in France, where the transmitter was bought. He said, however, that they were expected to continue on-the-job training after the operational phase.